[p.2on]

Mr. Penn sends his compliments to Sr. Thomas Robinson, and encloses with this a Letter he received for him yesterday from Mr. Morris, as also Copys of Messages between him, and the Assembly, which he has had but just time to have made, the Mes. sage of the 17th of December which Mr Morris has acquainted him he sent, was by the great hurry they were in on the sudden departure of the Ship left behind.

Mr. Penn sends also an extract of a Letter from Philadelphia, which gives a very agreable ac. count of the Indians to the Westward of Pensylv. va nia

Febr. 18. 1755.

[p.2ob]

Endorsed Febr 18th 1755/ Mr. Penn.

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[p.100]

The following is a Paragraph in a Letter which
Mr. Jn.o Barclay rec.d this Morning from Allen &
Turner Esq.rs in Philadelphia dated the 28th Dec.r 1754.

"When you write to Messrs. David Barclay & Sons,
"of London acquaint them that Our Assembly have
"as yet done nothing towards raising Money for the
"Defence of this Country. That four French Deserters
"came last Night to Town from the French Fort at
"Monongela; where was 1100. French & 270. Indians with
"a large Supply of Provisions; & that they were advis-
"ed of the Arrival of 6000. French men at Quebeck
"from old France which 6000. Men were on their way
"by Water coming to the Ohio River, in order to join
"those on Monongela River, & were expected to be at
"that Fort within two Months after they deserted.
"We are unfortunate in having an Assembly of all
"Quakers, whose Principles are against making Defence
"& by that Means this wealthy large Province is
"now going to Ruin.

[p.101]
"The Deserters were examined before Wm. Allen who
"is our Chief Justice. one of them was at Quebeck
"when those 6000 Grenadiers arrived, imported by
"Six Men of War & as those Deserters were all ex-
"amined a part, there remains no doubt of the
"Truth. Part of the Grenadiers were at Monongela;

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"600. Battoe's were employed in transporting them over
" the Lake.

Yr. ve.

Allen & Turner

Mr. Barclay begs leave to remark that Mr. Allen,
one of the Gentlemen who wrote the above is Chief
Justice, & examined the Deserters.
Eustache Street Thursday 27th. February 1755.

[0210]
Endorsed Extract of a Letter from/ Philadelphia dated
28th. / Decr. 1754.

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Extract of a Letter from Govr Morris to Mr [p. 911]
Penn dated Philadelphia 1st January 1755.

The Assembly here, were never in a worse Temper than at this Time, They have twice demanded your Instructions to me, in a Manner claiming the Sight of them, as a Right, & I have refused to communicate them further than you will see by my Messages inclosed. My last Message on the 30th ult: has very much alarmed the Town, who begin to talk loudly against the Assembly, but they are insensible of the dangerous Situation of the Province, & scruple not to [p. 912]
say that they had rather the French should conquer them, than give up these Privileges to the Proprietors. The French are now so strong that they will doubtless make themselves Masters of the Passes through the Alhegany Mountains, where One hundred Men, will be an over Match for One Thousand & I wonder that those, who have the Command of the Troops, at Wills's Creek, which is within Eight Miles of those Mountains, have not taken Care to secure at least one of those Passes. I shall write to Dinwiddie upon this Head.

Endorsed Extract of a/Letter from Govr/ Morris to Mr [p. 913]
Penn dated/ Philadelphia/ 1st Janry 1755.

[P. 215]

Philad[a] Decem[r] 24. 1754.

Sir

On the third of October last I arrived here & took upon me the government of this Pro. vince of Pensilvania, and of the Countys of New Castle Kent & Sussex upon delaware, which is a distinct Goverament from Pensylvania.

At the first meeting of the Assembly after my arrival which was on the 15th of October, I strongly recomended to them to take measures for the defence of the Country against the french. the steady uniformity of whose conduct was sufficient to convince us, that their views were no less than to make themselves masters of these Colonys: And they assured me in answer thereto, that they would afford assistance when the manner in which it might be usefull was poinded out to them; and they then, without doing any thing adjourned themselves to the 2d. Instant, agreable to a right they claim of sitting upon their own adjournments.

On the 3d Instant when they met again, I entered more particularly into the state of the frontiers, having during their recess furnished myself with the necessary intelligence, and then laid before them, not only your letter of y[e] 5th

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of July. which I had just before received. but also the state and condition of the french forts. with the number of regular troops and Indians they then had at Ohio; as also the condition of the English forces that were drawn together upon this occasion, [p.216] and the wavering state of the Indians of the six Nations; And upon the whole strongly recomended it to them, to make immediate and ample provision for the security of the Province. Upon this they sent me up a bill for striking £0.000 in bills of credit. twenty thousand pounds of which. they orderd to be paid into my hands. to be applyd to the Kings use in such manner as I should think fit. and for sinking the same. proposed to continue the excise on strong liquors retaild in the province, till June in the Year 1766. and out of the money arrising thereby. it was proposed to sink & distroy two thousand pounds a year of those bills, till the whole twenty thousand pounds should be distroyd. I returned this Bill to the house of Assembly and by message of the 17th Instant signified to them that I could not give my consent to it, as it was for emitting paper money without a suspending clause; but at the same time told them, I would consent to a bill, for striking any sum they might think the exigency of Affairs required, provided, funds were establish for

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sinking the same in five years; that being the term prescribed by an Act of Parliament for Regu-lating the paper Currency in the neighbouring governments.

On y^e 18^th Instant I had the Honour to receive his Majestys Commands, signified by your letter of the 26^th of October last, which I laid before the Assem-bly the next day, and by a message strongly re-commended to them to make provision for the several matters required of this province by his Majesty. But they signified to me that they would give money [illegible] in no other way, but that proposed by the Bill above Mentiond; That they thought the sum proposed sufficient to answer all purposes, and therefore insisted on my passing it in the shape it was at first proposed. Upon this I represented to them the danger their country was in, the wrong time they had chosen to revive a dispute that had subsisted many years, between them and the late Governor, concerning the force of the Kings Instruc-tions; That this in particular, was Issued at the request of both Houses of Parliament, and intended to enforce the Act of the 6^th of Queen Anne, for as-certaining the rates of foreign coins in the Plan-tations, which was, and is, most shamefully slighted and disregarded in this and the neighbouring provinces.

But all I have said, or can say, I am Affraid will answer no purpose however, as they are still sitting, they may yet do something, and I shall not fail to use my utmost endeavours to perswade them to act a reasonable and Dutyfull part upon the pres-ent occasion.

But as the Assembly have insisted on my passing the bill for striking £0,000:[lb] in the shape they have proposed it, As they will give money upon no other terms; and having in that way offerd twenty thousand pounds, and will endeavour to excuse them-selves from blame by having made that offer; I think it my duty upon this occasion to lay before you the reasons that induced me to refuse my assent to that Bill; which I have in part given in my several messages to them, Coppys of which I do my-self the honour to send with this, and hope my conduct in this particular will merit your appro-bation

[over]
/ 1st The Bill proposed in the ten years of its continuance, will raise the sum of forty thousand pounds, of which only twenty thousand pounds is given to the Kings use, the remainder is to be dis-posed of as the house of Assembly for the time being shall think fit, without any Check or Controul, and a further Assembly, for anything that is or can

be known to the contrary, may dispose of it to purposes very detrimental to the publick, and even to such as are inconsistant with their dependance upon the British Crown and nation: especially when it is considerd, that the assembly are chosen annually, and that a majority of the Electors are Germans, unacquainted with the English Language, and the nature of our dependance; and great numbers of them are Roman Catholicks.

2ª. Because the Assembly have nigh fifteen thousand pounds in their own hands, and by Laws now in force must receive fifteen thousand pounds more in two years; all which they can dispose of without check or controul; and not only refuse to apply any part of that money to the kings use, but insist on an addition thereto, equal to what they offer for the Publick service, upon this important occasion; and will not give the one without the other. –

3ª. Because by the Bill insisted on, the Assembly for the time being, are to have the Appointment of the Provincial treasurer, and the Collectors or Excise officers throughout the Province, all of whom are thereby made accountable to the assembly alone. –

4ª. Because the said Bill, as it is for

[p.119]
emitting paper money / is not only contrary to
the Royal Instruction for that purpose, to the
Governor of this Province for the time being; but
the time for the currency of the bills of credit
is longer than the rule laid down by act of
Parliament, for the Emission of paper money
upon Emergencies in the neighbouring Provinces.

For the above reasons I refused to give
my consent to that Bill. Tho I did not mention
them all in the messages I sent to the Assembly,
as I was fearfull of bringing on a dispute
that might impede his Majestys service, at this
important Juncture and was in hopes by insist-
-ing on his Majestys Instruction only, to have
prevailed upon the Assembly to have given money
upon the present occasion.

You will permit me to Assure you,
that I shall to the utmost of my power pro-
-mote his Majestys service upon all occasions, but
have little hopes of success, while I have an
assembly composed of men who are Principal'd
against defending themselves or their Country, and
who will come into no measures, but such as have
a more direct tendancy to aggrandize their own
power, than to promote the publick service, at a
time when they know a Considerable part of their

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own Province is in the Possession of the french.—

I take the liberty to refer you to what I have said to them upon the present occasion. and have the Honour to be

Sir Your Most Obedient

Humble Servt

Robt H. Morris

Sr Thomas Robinson

[4 copies]

Endorsed Pensylvania Decr 24th 1754. / Lt Govr Morris / Rd Feb 7 19th

[p.259]

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly.

Gentlemen.

When your Bill for striking twenty thousand pounds ye was before me, I duly consider.ed the dangerous Circumstances in which the Pro.vince was involved, and the absolute necessity of speedy measures to remove the french from their Encroachments, and this induced me instead of adding a Clause to suspend the force of the Act 'til his Majesty's Pleasure be known, to send it back to you, that you might frame such a one as I was at Liberty to give my consent to, and at the same time to signify to you, that I would agree to the striking any Sum the present emergency might require, provided funds were established for sinking the same in five years, that being the Term pre.scribed by an Act of Parliament for regulating Paper Money in the Eastern Governments, & I thought the reason of that Act extended here, tho' the force of it did not, and I hoped that I should be ex.cused if I so far relaxed the Instruction upon the present occasion, as to act agreable to the rule laid down by Parliament for the Neighbouring Govern.ments, and I am sorry, for the sake of the Publick, to find by your Message that you have so far misapprehended me, as to conceive that I intended

to insist on the suspending Clause, in this dan-
-gerous situation of affairs which the words in
my Message do in no wise import, and that upon
the whole you refuse to accede the reasonable Mea-
-sures I proposed.

The Case stated for Sr D Wyders Opinion was
drawn up with intention to know how far that In-
-struction was binding upon the Lieutenant Govern-
-or for the time being, and not whether Col. Thomas
had acted right or wrong in passing an Act for
striking five thousand Pounds, without a suspend-
-ing Clause, to which the Case stated neither could
nor ought to have any reference.

It does not appear to me, that the opinion
only regards common and ordinary Emissions, the
Instruction itself you are sensible is very General,
and that all the late Assemblys objections are placed
in the fairest and strongest Light, in the State of the
Case. Col: Thomas's Conduct is no rule to me, nor will
mine be for any one that may succeed me, and if
we judge from his not transmitting that Act to
England, we may presume that he did not look
[p 222]
upon that particular as the most recommendatory
part of his Administration, it is true he never was
reassured for it, and indeed how could he as the
Transaction was never made known to his Majesty or

his Ministers and he now enjoys a considerable Trust under the Crown; But you must be convinced that what principally recommended him to his Majesty's favour, was the warm zeal he discovered for His Majesty's Service, a ready obedience to his Lawful Commands, & a hearty Inclination to promote the publick Service, by annoying His Majesty's Enemies, and endeavouring to provide for the defence of that part of his Majesty's Dominions, then under his immediate Direction.

As the fact you mention relating to the base laid by the Lords of Trade before the Attorney and Solicitor General is not of publick Notoriety, it is quite unknown to me, but should it be as you say whenever they shall report their opinion, and His Majesty shall think fit to issue different Instructions, I shall endeavour to pay the proper obedience to them but while this matter is only under the Consideration of the Attorney & Solicitor General, if in truth it be so, I do not see that I can take any notice of it.

The Debates in Parliament or whatever any noble Member was pleased to say on that occasion have I think Little connection with the matter now before us, but you will please to remember that tho' the Parliament did not agree to give a general

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Sanction to all Instructions from his Majesty, yet this in particular was the result of the humble Addresses of both Houses to His Majesty for that purpose, and it cannot be doubted but they will support their own act if it should ever come before them.

I must join with you in opinion that the only method to have the validity and force of that Instruction finally and authoritatively determined, is by an Application to His Majesty, who can if he pleases withdraw or suspend the force of it, for any time he thinks proper, and I will as I think it my Duty at all times but more especially so at present lay before His Majesty's Ministers this whole Affair, to whom you are at Liberty, and I am desirous you should apply. But while that Matter rests before His Majesty for his determination, which cannot be immediately had, let us [p. 220] exert ourselves against the French Invaders / who have already possessed themselves of great part of this Province, and not leave them at Liberty to make further Encroachments, and their savage Allies to make what Incursions and commit what Cruelty's they please.

As I was in a great measure a stranger to your Constitution, and was so highly to be intrusted by the Proprietaries, it seemed quite necessary that

I should receive Instructions from them, all which are so perfectly calculated to promote and secure the prosperity and real happiness of the Inhabi-tants of their Country, and so reasonable in them-selves, that I can safely assure you that nothing is required of me by them that I should not think it my Duty to do, if they had never been given me. and tho' I think it not quite decent, and I believe unprecedented, for a Governor to be called upon for a sight of his Instructions yet I shall com-municate them to the House whenever the publick Service shall require it, and accordingly I take this opportunity to acquaint you that I have it among other Things in charge from the Proprie-tors, to recommend to you in the most pressing man-ner to provide at this time for the defence & safety of the Province, not only by affording such Aids as His Majesty from time to time may require, but by establishing a regular Militia within this Province, and providing Arms and Stores of War, and building proper Magazines, in the most con-venient places. all these things they desired may be done in such manner as to be least Burthensome to the Inhabitants, and particularly so as not to oblige any Persons to bear Arms who are or may be conscientiously scrupulous against it. This Gentlemen

in pursuance of my Instructions from the Proprie.
.tors I now earnestly recommend to you to do with
all imaginable dispatch, as this Province never
was in more Eminent Danger than it is at present,
having as you know a very large Body of French
Troops in the back parts of it, assisted by great
Numbers of Indians in their Alliance, and the
Government without men acquainted with Military
Discipline Arms or Ammunition; and as His Majes.
.ty and Ministers as well as the Proprietors de.
.pend upon me to give them true and exact ac.
-counts of the State and Circumstances of the Pro.
[P334] vince committed to my Care, I must desire / you
will give me a clear and determinate answer
to this point, that I be able to Lay the same be.
.fore His Majesty, in such a manner as may make
the interposition of Parliament entirely unnecessary.
Gentlemen.

While I had your Message of the 20th.
Instant under my Consideration, and was prepar.
.ing the foregoing answer to it I received yours
of the 21st in answer to mine of the 19th accompany.
.ing Sr. Thomas Robinson's Letter of Octr. 26th.

And am really concern'd to find that in.
.stead of providing for the Articles of Expence re.
.commended to you by His Majesty in a manner

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agreable to his Royal Directions, you insist on my pass.
.ing the Bill in the Shape you have sent it up, which
I before informed you I could by no means do, as be.
.ing contrary to His Majesty's Instruction, and now
again assure you that I will not assent to that or any
other Bill for Emitting paper Money but upon the
Terms abovementioned. Here Gentlemen I think it
necessary to say that there were some other Matters
in your Bill which perhaps would have merited my
further Consideration, but I was unwilling to men.
tion any thing that might impede His Majesty's
Service.

I cannot but observe by the Minutes of Coun.
.cil that a Dispute subsisted between you and the
Late Governor upon this very head for a consider.
.able time, which might certainly have received his
Majesty's determination, had you applyed for it.
and am very sorry that such a Dispute should
be revived in the very beginning of my Adminis.
.tration and at a time when the common Safety
requires, that we should lay aside all other Con.
.siderations but our present eminent Danger, and
rise up, as one Man, to drive the French from our
borders, and secure our Country against their en.
.croachments for the future.

Was there no other method of raising Money

for the present Service but that you have proposed
+ insisted upon, your Conduct might appear in a
more favourable Light.

But as you now have or ought to have by
the Laws in being in Bank between £10,000 & £15,000
[any]
Pounds and a revenue of £7,000 a year, as this City
and Province are in Rich and flourishing Circum-
-stances, and as the People are numerous and bur-
-thened with none or very trifling Taxes, I cannot
consent to pass the Bill you propose, it being a
direct breach of a Royal Instruction intended to
inforce an Act of Parliament of the 6th of Queen
Ann, which you know has been shamefully slight-
-ed and disregarded in this and the neighbouring
Provinces.

The reason for my having recommended it
to you to consider whether a Law would not be
necessary to settle and establish the Wages or Hire
to be paid for such Tradesmen, Horses & Carriages
as might be impressed for His Majesty's Service, by
Military men, was in favour of Liberty, and intend-
-ed to restrain them from impressing of Freeholders,
and to prevent disputes between the Owners of Carria-
-ges and other Necessaries, and that if the Exigen-
-cy of affairs should render it necessary to impress
any, it might be only single men and such as have

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no habitations or settlements among us, whose service may be wanted in the Course of this Expedition.

Upon the whole you will consider Gentlemen in what Light you will appear to his Majesty and a British Parliament, who are expending great Sums of Money for the defence of these Colonys, while you the very Province most concerned as being Invaded, instead of contributing your own defence are enter-ing into an ill tim'd Controversy concerning the validity of Royal Instructions, which might have been determined long ago, and may be delayed to a more convenient time, without any the least injury to the rights of the People.

Let me therefore Gentlemen once more recom-mend the present unhappy Circumstances of this Country to your most serious Consideration, and en-treat you to lay aside / for the present at least / every thing that may admit of any dispute, and enter heartily into such measures as may best answer the publick Expectations, & assist His Majesty in the Measures he has concerted, & is carrying into Exe-cution for the preservation of this Country.

Robt H. Morris

24th Decr 1754.

Endorsed Pennsylvania / Message from the Governor / to the Assembly 24th Decr 1754 / in Lt Govr Morris's Letter of / Decr 24th 1754. [p. 230]

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[A.1731]

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly

Gentlemen.

The Secretary will lay before you a Letter I received last Night from Sr. Thomas Robinson one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, notifying to me his Majesty's Gracious intention to send two Regiments of Foot from Ireland to be compleated in in America, and to raise two others in this Country to be commanded by His Excellency Govr. Shirley, and Sr. William Pepperel for the defence of His Majesty's Just Rights and Dominions: His Majesty will appoint a General Officer of Rank and Capacity to take upon him the Command in Chief of all His Forces in North America, who will soon be here with a Deputy Quarter Master General, and a Commissary of the Musters, in order to prepare every thing for the arrival of the Forces. His Majesty has been also Graciously pleased to order Arms Cloathing & other Necessarys to be sent hither upon the present Important Occasion, and likewise Ordnance, Stores, and Officers and Attendants belonging thereto. Such Proofs of His Majesty's Gracious and Paternal Regard and Affection for the welfare and security of his Subjects in North America, cannot fail to excite the warmest returns of Duty and Gratitude in the breast of every Man that regards his Country his Family

or himself, and it gives me particular pleasure that we are now sitting in General Assembly, as we have thereby not only an early opportunity of Testifying the grateful Sense we have of His Majesty's Care and Protection, but of exerting ourselves in the Service of our Country at this important Conjuncture, and setting a proper Example to the other Colonies.

You will observe by the Secretary of States Letter, that it is His Majesty's Pleasure that we should contribute as far as we can to the having about three thousand Men in readiness to Joyn, that we should provide a Quantity of fresh Provisions for the Troops, and Necessarys for the Officers that may have occasion to travel by Land, that the Orders to be issued by the Commander in Chief for Quartering
[p. 332]
|the Soldiers, and impressing Carriages should be carried into exact Execution and that all Necessarys should be provided for such Troops as shall arrive or be raised within this Government.

His Majesty expects that as the several Articles abovementioned are of a Local and peculiar nature, and arising intirely within this Government, that the Charge thereof should be defrayed by his Subjects within the same.

You will also observe Gentlemen that it is His Majesty's pleasure that such Articles of Expence

as are of a more general concern, should be supplyed from a Common fund, to be established for the benefit of all the Colonys in North America, collectively, for which purpose he has ordered me to recommend it to you, in the strongest manner, forthwith to raise as large a Sum as can be afforded, as the Contribution of this Province towards such Common fund, to be employed Provisionally for the General Service of North America, until a Plan of General Union of his Majesty's Northern Colonys for their common defence can be perfected.

It is so much the Interest of the Colonys in General, and of this in particular, to exert themselves upon the present occasion, to co-operate with His Majesty in repelling this Invasion, and to do what is so justly expected from us, that I cannot doubt but you will immediately proceed to the consideration of the several matters mentioned in the Secretary of States Letter, and by making an ample Provision for the present Exigency, enable me to comply with the Royal pleasure, and carry His Majesty's Commands into a strict and speedy execution.

As it may be necessary in the course of this Expedition to Impress Tradesmen, Horses and Carriages into His Majesty's Service, and to seize

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Provisions of all sorts, and other Necessaries. You will consider whether a Law will not be neces-sary to settle and establish The Wages or hire to be paid for such Tradesmen, Horses, and Carriages, as may be so impressed, and the price of such Provisions, and other Necessarys, as may be seized upon the present occasion. That no disputes may arise between the Civil and Military Officers, and that all possible assistance may be given to those that [p.233] shall be employed/in the publick Service, without Injury to private Persons.

Robert: H. Morris

19th Decr 1754.

[p.234] Endorsed Pennsylvania/Message from the Governor/ to the Assembly. 19th. Decr./1754/ in Lt. Govr Morris's Letter of/ Decr 24th 1754.

A Message to the Governor from the Assem- [p.235]
bly in answer to the Governor's Message of
the 18th Instant.

May it please the Governor,

We observe with great Concern, Our Governor apprehends himself "forbid by a Royal Instruction" from giving his Assent to the Bill for Granting Twenty thousand Pounds to the King's Use without a sus- pending Clause that it shall not take Effect til His Majesty's Pleasure be known.

Such a suspending Clause we apprehend would render that Grant entirely ineffectual as we are now circumstanced, if we had no other objection to it, and therefore can by no means agree to insert it in our Bill.

But the Governor is pleased to say, as the Act of Parliament restraining the four Eastern Gov- -ernments from Emitting Paper Currency gives them a Power to strike Bills of Credit in Case of Emer- gency, he hopes he shall be justified in thinking the reason holds good as to us who are (as he thinks) in the greatest Danger. And therefore he will join with us in any Bill for striking what sum we shall think our Pressing Occasions demand, Provided a fund be established for sinking the same in five Years.

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As the Governor does us the Justice to acknowledge that he is convinced the Representatives of the Province act from upright motives, and what they esteem to be it's true Interest, he is also pleased to differ in opinion from us, and hopes when we reflect on the Obligations he is under to pay obedience to His Majesty's Instructions, that we will not press him to disobey them.

And, in order to shew us that he does not entirely rely upon his own Judgement, he has been pleased to Lay before us the Opinion of Sr. Dudley Ryder, the late Attorney General and present Chief Justice of England, on a state of the Case as it regards the force or power of Royal Instructions upon the Governors of this Province.

We have the misfortune to differ in opinion from the Governor, after considering the Case maturely, as it now lyes before us, nevertheless, [p.226] we do assure him, that tho' in a matter of small Importance, we might not perhaps be so very tenacious of our own Sentiments; yet in this Case, our All is concerned, and if we should not act becoming the Rights our Birth, as Englishmen, entitles us to, we might appear unworthy of the Regard we have already Experienced, and have good Reason to hope for hereafter from a British Parliament.

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The Case, then as Stated to Sr Dudley Wyder, at that time the Kings Attorney General, after reciting the several powers Granted by our Charter, as well as the Acts of Parliament of the Seventh and Eighth of William The Third, and the Sixth of Queen Ann and the Lords Justices Instructions to Colo Thomas in 1740, proceeds in the following words, That is to say.

'Since the said Instruction was given (to Colonel 'Thomas but directed as before stated) a new Lieuten- 'ant Governor, Mr Hamilton, has been appointed for 'Pensylvania by the Proprietors and approved by the 'Crown.

'The before mentioned particular additional Instruc- 'tion has not been repeated to Mr Hamilton, any other- 'wise than, as he is become, now, the Lieutenant Gov- 'ernor of Pensylvania, for the time being.

'But upon Mr Hamiltons being approved for 'Lieutenant Governor, the Crown issued its General 'Instructions, and amongst other things, ordered that 'he should take a solemn Oath, to do his utmost, 'that all the Clauses, Matters and Things contain'd 'in the said Act of the Sixth of Queen Ann, should be 'punctually and bona fide observed, according to the 'true Intent and Meaning thereof, which Oath he, ac- 'cordingly, took.

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Besides this on the browns approag Mr. Hamilton, it was, on the part of the Brown, required of him, and his Surety's entered into a Bond, to His Majesty, in £2.000 Penalty, conditioned (inter alia) "That if the said James Hamilton shall, from time to "time, and at all times hereafter, so long as he shall "continue Lieutenant Governor of the said Province, "observe, perform, and obey, all such directions and "Instructions, which now are or shall at any time "be given, or sent, to him by his Majesty, his Heirs "and Successors or from any Person or Persons now "acting, or that hereafter shall act, by authority "from his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and "pursuant to, and for the putting in Execution, the "several Acts of Trade and Navigation, relating to the "Plantations viz:"

[Page] /'An Act passed the Twelfth of Charles the Second. 'Intitled an Act for the encouraging and increasing 'the Shipping and Navigation.

'Here a great many Acts of Parliament are enumerated and amongst them,

'An Act passed in the Sixth year of the said 'Queen's Reign, Entitled an Act, for ascertaining the 'rates of foreign Goods, in her Majesty's Plantations in 'America and all other Acts of Parliament, now in force, 'or that hereafter, shall be made relating to the Plantation

'Trade; and shall do and perform all such Matters
'and Things, as the Governors of His Majesty's Planta-
'tions by any Act of Parliament, made or to be made
'shall be obliged or enjoined, to do and perform; and
'shall before his entring on the said Government take
'the Oaths, enjoined to be taken by the Governors & Com-
'manders in Chief of other His Majesty's Colonies &
'Plantations, before their entring on their respective
'Governments, as directed by the Act of The Seventh
'and Eighth years of the late King William, herein
'before mentioned, &c, &c, &c, then to be void.

'Matters standing thus, the People in Pensylva-
'nia have applyed to Mr Hamilton their Lieuten-
'-ant Governor, to pass a Law, for enlarging or add-
'-ing more to the Sum which they at present, have
'standing out, in Paper Money, or Bills of Credit there.

'He supposing that a small Sum, to be added
'to their present Quantity may not produce any great
'Inconveniencys, would consent to an Act for that
'purpose, provided, they insert the <u>Suspending Clause</u>,
'that the Act shall have no force, until confirmed
'by the Crown.

'But they insist on passing the Act, <u>without</u>
'<u>any such suspending Clause</u>.

'Which he declines doing;

'As concerning the Matter of <u>Money</u> of <u>any</u>

'Sort or Kind, to be in its nature, part of the
'Prerogative or Sovereignty of the Crown, and that
'he is bound, by the Instruction, which was given
'by the Lords Justices in 1740 to Colonel Thomas, or
'to the Commander in Chief, in Pennsylvania for
'the time being and by his beforementioned Oath
'and Bond, and by the Duty of his Office, to observe
'that Instruction, and not to pass any Act whereby
[p.228]
'Bills of Credit may be issued in/Lieu of Money
'without inserting the suspending Clause.

'On the other hand, the People insist, on the
'Powers granted by the Charter, for passing all Laws
'whatsoever, as giving very ample Authority to him,
'to pass the Law which they desire and that the
'Crown, having Granted away such very full Powers,
'cannot, even upon an Address from the House of
'Commons, resume them again, or add further limit-
-ations or restrictions, than what are contained in
'the Charter, and therefore, seem to think that, al-
-tho' his Majesty might issue such Instructions to
'his own immediate Governors, where there are no
'Charters, yet, that in Pennsylvania, where such a
'Charter subsists, such Instruction had no force, even
'upon Colonel Thomas himself (to whom the same was
'immediately directed) during his Government & more
'clearly so, in the Case of the present Governor, Mr.

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'Hamilton, to whom the same additional Instruc
'tion, has not been given, any otherwise, than as
'he is, now become Governor of Pennsylvania, for the
'time being.

'Mr. Hamilton is desirous to oblige the People
'hereen, if he may legally, and safely do so.

'And your opinion is desired

'Viz, 'Whether Mr. Hamilton, Lieutenant Governor of
'Pennsylvania may legally and safely, and without
'committing any Offence, or breech of his Oath or Bond,
'or of his Duty to the King, pass and give his as
'sent to an Act of Assembly whereby Bills of Credit
'may be issued, in Pennsylvania in lieu of Money,
'without the Suspending Clause, before mentioned be
'ing inserted therein?

'I am of opinion it is by no means safe or
'adviseable or consistent with his Duty to pass
'such Bills, without a Suspending Clause.

30th Novr 1759. D. Ryder.'

It appears that the Case, thus Stated to the Attorney General, regards only Emissions of Bills of Credit on <u>common</u> and <u>ordinary</u> occasions, and in our opinion very Little, if at all, affects the present Bill; and it is remarkable that there is not the least notice taken of the Act for Granting Five thousand Pounds for the Kings use which Governor

[4559]

Thomas/passed without a suspending Clause by extend-
-ing this very Excise Act for Ten Years; which we have
now again extended for the same Term of years only
and Loaded with a Grant of Twenty thousand Pounds.

As Col' Thomas gave his assent to that Act
after receipt of the additional Instruction which the
Governor has now sent down with our Bill and as
we presume he has no other or later Instructions from
the Crown, tho' he has since received the Royal Ap-
-probation, we hope he will not think himself more
restricted by it than the Gentleman to whom it was
immediately directed; who has never suffered in his
Honour that we know of, or incurred the King's dis-
-pleasure for giving his Assent to that Bill and
at this time holds a Government of Great Importance
under the immediate Powers of the Crown.

Governor Hamilton, we find, entered into
Bonds and Penaltys (among other things) that he
shall from time to time, and at all times here-
-after, so long as he shall continue Lieutenant Gov-
-ernor of the said Province observe, perform, and
obey all such directions, and Instructions, which
now are, or shall at any time be given or sent to
him, by his Majesty, his Heirs, and Successors, or from
any Person or Persons now acting, or that hereafter
shall act, by and for the putting in Execution the

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several Acts of Trade & Navigation relating to the Plan-
tations &c. Which Bond, or Bonds, of the Like Tenor, we
presume, our Governor may have entered into before he
received the Royal Approbation; and yet our Late
Governor seems clearly, in his Reasonings with form-
er Assemblys, to have acknowledged he thought him-
self at Liberty to pass Acts of the Tenor of our pres-
ent Bill for granting Money for the King's use, and
never offered a suspending Clause notwithstanding
his Bonds to the Crown: But whether he might or
might not be safe in passing a Bill of the kind
mentioned in his state of the Case could regard
himself only, as does by no means determine the Rights
we claim under the Royal Charter. And we have
the pleasure to assure the Governor we have been
credibly inform'd that the Board of Trade about
a year ago stated a Question to the Attorney and
Solliciter General, with respect to the validity of this
Instruction of a suspending Clause, over Governments
claiming particular Rights by Charter; to/ which they [p. 220]
have not yet given any answer that we can Learn.
and we know that notwithstanding two Bills, Extend-
ing the Royal Instructions (sic) our Councils and Assemblys
in America, had been attempted in Parliament with-
out Success, and a third Bill was brought in
with the same Clause, yet it could not obtain a

passage there and we are inform'd that a noble Friend to Liberty and the Rights of the British Subject, a Member of that House, exposed this third attempt so fully upon the second reading of the Bill that the Clauses on this head objected to were dropt without division in the Committee and until such Acts of parliament shall be obtained, which we have good reason to hope will never be imposed upon us, the Governor must agree with us, that it is our Duty to defend the Rights and Privileges we enjoy under the Royal Charter.

As, in the present Case, we are not bound by any Acts of Parliament, and are certainly clear of the Act limiting the Eastern Colonies, both as to the force and the intention of it we hope the Governor, from his known abilities, and good will to the prosperity of this Province will immediately discern the difference between this Bill and Acts of Assembly Creating Bills of Credit on <u>Common</u> and Ordinary occasions. What force Royal Instructions may have on Bills of Credit passed on Common and Ordinary occasions is not immediately before us, and may be considered at a proper time, but we hope the Governor, notwithstanding any Penal Bond he may have entered into, will on reflection, think himself at Liberty, and find it consistent

with his Safety and Honour, to give his assent to this Bill, which may at this time be of such great Service to the British Interest in America.

But if you should unhappily still differ in opinion notwithstanding these Reasons, and such as have been offered by our former Assembly, we must be obliged, as our last resource, to apply to the Crown for redress, or to the Lords of Trade or our Proprietories, as the case may require; in which we doubt not, the Governor will favour us with his assistance, and in order to furnish ourselves with every thing necessary for our own Vindication, and that this Case may appear in its full Light we intreat the Governor will be pleased to inform us, whether he has any further Instructions from our Proprietaries which influence him in refusing his Assent to our Bill, and if he has, that he would be pleased to lay those [p.201]
Instructions before us for our Consideration.

Signed by Order of the House.

Isaac Norris Speaker

In Assembly Dec: 20th 1754.

Endorsed Pennsylvania/ Message from the Assembly/ to [p.202]
the Gov: 20: Dec: 1754./ in Pt. Gov: Morris's Letter of/ Dec:
24th 1754

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A Message to the Governor from the Assembly. [p. 200]

May it please the Governor.

The undoubted proofs His Majesty has ever given of his Gracious and Paternal Affection for all His Subjects, however distant from his Royal Presence, and the fresh Marks we have now before us of his care and regard for the welfare and security of his Subjects in North America, excite in us the warmest returns of Duty and Gratitude, and we hope we have fully testified; that we have nothing more at heart, in all our Deliberations than to answer the reasonable Expectations of the Crown from this young but Loyal Colony. We have chear-fully pass'd a Bill for granting Twenty thousand Pounds for the King's Use, which, now Lyes before the Governor for his approbation, and we hope will answer all the purposes recommended to his Care by Sr. Thomas Robinson's Letter of the Twenty sixth of October last. And as we cannot pre-sume the Military Officers will or ought to have any Power of Impressing Tradesmen with-in this Province, so we think the other parts of the Governor's Message of the Nineteenth Inst-tant, which relate to the mode of settling the value of such Seizures or other Injuries, Private persons shall hereafter receive may remain under

our Consideration without any considerable Incon-
.veniences

Signed by order of the House
Isaac Norris Speaker

In Assembly
21st Day of Decr.
1754.

[p.916] Endorsed Pennsylvania/ Message from the Assembly/
to the Governor. 21st Decr 1754/ in Ls Govs Morriss Letter of/
Decr 24th 1754

Lr. /

[1683]

I did myself the honour to write you on the 21st ult. relating to the proceedings of the Assembly of this Province, duplicate of which is under this cover as also copy of what I said to them at the opening of the Sessions and of the severall messages that have passed between us since that time.—

You will observe by these papers that I have laid before them his Majestys Comands signified by your severall Letters of July 5th and Octobr 26th and called upon them to grant the Supplys expected by the Crown upon the present important occasion; that I have represented to them the danger to which these Colonys stand exposed by the encroachments of the French, and urged every motive that could induce them to avoid dispute, & act with Vigor in the defence of their Country. But I am sorry to say, that instead of such a Conduct as might reasonably be expected, from the Representatives of a Province actually invaded by the French. They have Industriously entered into a controversy concerning the force of Royal and Proprietary Instructions, which they insist are not binding upon a Governor of this Province, & have taken the Liberty to represent the

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Issueing such, as distructive of their Liberty's and in-
fractions of their Charter And because I refused
to Communicate to them all my Instructions, and
to disobey such as they might think wrong, they
have made that an excuse for not providing for
the Necessary defence of the Province. They did indeed
propose a Bill for putting £20,000 into my hands for
the Kings use, but upon such terms as I could not
[p.2 blot]
agree to, Consistant/with my duty; + I had the
honor to give you my particular reasons in my last.

I take the liberty to Observe, that Royal +
Proprietary Instructions are by no means new things
in this Government, and if they had been distruc-
tive of the Liberty's of the people, they might have
been Complained of in a time of less danger. The
raising such a dispute therefore at this time, seems
to have been done with no other design, but to
furnish a pretence for not acting as his Majesty's
Service, and the Safety of the Country required.-

On the 3d Instant the Assembly did by a
resolve without my knowledge or Consent, empower
a Committee of their own members, to borrow any
Sum not exceeding five thousand pounds upon the
Credit of the House, which they directed to be aplyed
to some of the uses recommended by your letter of
Octo. 26th, in such manner as that Committee should

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think fit.— upon which you will give me leave to say. that if a house of Assembly by their own Authority, without the consent or approbation of a Gov^r can borrow and dispose of money as they think proper, they may hereafter use that Power in a manner inconsistant with the publick good, & the just dependence of this Province upon the Crown.

On the 10^th Instant the Assembly Notified to me their intention to adjourn themselves till may, and I sent them a message objecting to any adjournment, till they had grasted the necessary supplys, and put the Province into a posture of defence, but they Persisted in their resolution, and adjourned to the 12^th of my next (sic) Without doing any thing but what I have mentioned, and making a representation to his Majesty against royal and Prop^r Instructions, as I am told, for I have not been favourd with a sight of it.—

I am honourd with your severall letters in favour of S^r John. S^t Clair & M^r Pitcher, to both of whom I shall afford my best assistance as I shall to Every Officer his Majesty has/thought fit to employ upon the present occasion. [illegible]

I could with great ease have had a consiederable number of men ready to have augmented the two regiments from Ireland, or to have made,

part of those to be raised in America, if the As-
sembly would have consented to supply money
for that purpose, but as they would not, I must
content myself with affording my assistance to the
Officers that shall be employ'd to raise men for
those purposes.

I have the Honor to be Sir

Your Most Obed.t

Most Humble servt

Robt H. Morris.

Philad.a Jan.y

30. 1755

S.r Thomas Robinson

[p.366] Endorsed Pensylvania Jan.y 30.th | 1755 | Lt Gov.r Morris. |

Rd March 24.th

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Sir [1 of 11]

The last I had the Honour to write You was on the thirtieth of January, since which Gen-eral Braddock is arrived in Virginia with the Two Regiments from Ireland, and those ordered to be raised in America are now very near compleat, and might have been by this Time very fit for Service, if the American Assemblies had shewed a proper Regard to their own Interest and Safety, or to the Commands of the Crown.

As soon as I was informed of the General's Arrival, I called the Assembly of this Province to-gether, that they might be ready to consider any thing he had to recommend without Delay; and accordingly on the eighteenth of last Month press'd them to grant Supplies, not only for furnishing Provisions and Necessaries to the Troops, but for opening Roads and providing Carriages, and laid before them a Plan formed by Governor Shirley for removing the French from their Encroachments in Nova Scotia, and for building a Fort near the French Fort at Crown Point, in which he desired the Aid of this Province. But notwithstanding the Danger this Country stands exposed to from the French, the no-ble Opportunity they have by strengthning the Hands of General Braddock of removing them, and

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effectually securing these Colonies against their future Attempts, I have not been able to prevail on them to do any thing to the Purpose; and they are grown so very unreasonable and entertain such out of the way Notions of their own Rights and Priviledges, that nothing good is expected from them, till they are reduced to a proper Sense of them-selves. For besides the Right of meeting and sitting for what Time they please independant of the Governor, they have lately taken upon them very new and extraordinary Powers.

At the Close of the last Sessions I demand-ed a Copy of their Proceedings, but could not ob-tain them till they were sent me in Print two Months after the Assembly were adjourned; and I was surpris-[2 words] ed to find there at Large your several Letters to me which I had laid before them to induce them to grant the Supplies recommended by the Crown, and think-ing it not only a bad Practice to publish the Com-mands of the Crown signified by a Secretary of State and of dangerous Consequence, sent a Message to the House recommending it to them to leave out those Letters, and to delay the Publication of their Votes till that was done, but they insisted, that they had a Right to print and publish every thing that was laid before them, and refused either to expunge

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the Letters, or to delay the Publication of them Where-upon I sent an Order to the Printers, forbidding them to publish those Letters, of which the House of As-sembly being informed, expressly ordered the Printers to proceed in the Publication, and they did so accord-ingly, as You will observe not only by the printed Votes of the House herewith sent You, but by the Messages and Orders that have passed upon the head, which I have the Honour to enclose with thes.

As it is beyond doubt the Right of the Gov-ernment to know from time to time what is done or doing by any Body of Men, acting under the Authority of the Crown And as I had in vain endeavoured to procure a Copy of the Assemblys Pro-ceedings during the last Sitting, I thought it right to let them know that I expected the Clerk would attend me every day with their Votes, but they would neither permit him to do so, nor suffer their Journals to be inspected by the Secretary, who I sent for that purpose.

Immediately upon my refusing to pass a Bill they sent me for striking Twenty Five Thousand Pounds in Bills of Credit, of which I shall transmit You a Copy by the next Conveyance, as it is of a very extraordinary Nature, the House without my Knowledge or Consent, have resolved to issue Notes

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of Credit from Five to Fifty Pounds each, to the Amount of Ten Thousand Pounds, which they by their own Authority give towards carrying on Gov.-ernor Shirleys Plan of Operations; and tho' this be the Pretence for making Use of such an unconstitution.-al Power, yet the true Design is to encrease their own Power, and make a President for issuing Bills of Credit
[p. 918]
without the Consent/of the Government, for such these Notes really are, and will have a Currency.

I need not observe to you, Sir, the Danger of such Powers in the Hands of any Assembly, and es.-pecially of One annually chosen by a People, a great Part, if not a Majority of whom are Foreigners, un.-attached to an English Government, either by Birth or Education; and as none of these Things are warranted by the Proprietary Charter, under which the Assembly act, or in the least countenanced by the Proprietaries themselves, I think them the more extraordinary, and very worthy the Notice of the Government.

As well in the last Sessions as in the present I frequently recommended to the Assembly, pursuant to the Instructions of the Proprietaries, to put this Province in.-to a Posture of defence; but they are determined to come into no Measures for that purpose, notwithstand.-ing its present dangerous Situation: and tho' this

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Province is very able to contribute largely towards the necessary Expences of the present Expedition, and it is so much their Interest to do it, yet the Assembly cannot be prevailed upon to lay any Tax, or to grant the Supplies necessary for the Troops that are employed for their Protection, unless they can at the same time encrease and render permanent their own Power and Authority.

I am sorry it is not in my Power to give You a more agreeable Account of the Condition of this Province, and can only assure You, that my best Endeavours have not been wanting to promote his Majesties Service. I have the Honor to be Sir.

Your Most Obed^t
Humble Serv^t
Robt H: Morris

Philad^a April 9th 1755.

S^r Thomas Robinson

Endorsed Pensylvania April 9th 1755/ Lt Gov^r Morris./ Rp [Rcvd] June 10th

A Message to the Governor from the Assembly. [illegible]

May it please the Governor.

We have considered the two last Messages sent down by the Governor to the House, and beg Leave to say that We are humbly of Opinion, Letters from the Secretary of State laid before the House by the Governor, and containing the Commands of the Crown, ought generally to be inserted in the Minutes of Assembly, as such Letters are the Foundation of the Proceedings of the House and may be necessary for their justification.

Sir Thomas Robinson's Letters of the Fifth of July and Twenty Sixth of October were sent down to the House without the least Caution to keep the Contents a Secret. The latter, which is the most material, is a Circular Letter, one to the same Effect being sent by the same Conveyance to all the Provinces and Colonies in North America, and, as We are informed, the Substance of it has been already printed in the Speeches of several Governors to their Assemblies. The Design therein mentioned, of sending Two Regiments to America and raising Two more in the Colonies to join them in repelling the French Invasions, was no Secret, being avowed in the English Prints, particularly in the London Gazette published by Authority. And our Governor himself made very full and particular Abstracts of those

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Letters in his Messages to the House, which were printed in the Gazettes here, during our last Session, long before the House adjourned, and no Objection was made to such Publication at that Time that We have heard of. We are therefore surprised that the Governor should now take Exceptions at the Insertion of those Letters in our Minutes. And as he has not been pleased to point out a single Inconvenience or dangerous Consequence that may attend it, the House is not enclined to expunge them.

We know not what Assurances of Secrecy the Governor expects from Us, or what would be satisfactory; and therefore can only say, that whenever it shall appear to the House to be necessary for the [304] King's Service or the publick Good, to keep secret any matters laid before them by the Governor, We doubt not but that proper Measures will be taken for that Purpose.

When the Governor was pleased "on the Tenth of January," to demand a Copy of the Minutes of that Sitting, the House ordered them to be printed with all convenient Speed, and that a Copy should be delivered to the Governor when finished. They were accordingly put to the Press, as soon as they could well be transcribed and revised by the Committee for that Purpose appointed; and it seems the Governor

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has had a Copy of the greatest Part of them, even before they were finished. Ever since the Votes were first printed in this Province, now upwards of Thirty Years, it has been the constant Practice to appoint a Committee to revise the Minutes, which has been done after the Rising of the House, and before they were sent to the Press: and till this was done, Copies were never delivered out, unless of particular Votes on special Occasions. The principal Matters they contain, are generally to be found in the Governor's Speeches, or Messages, and the Answers of the House and these, with such Votes as are material, are for the most part immediately printed in the News Papers, and thereby made more publick than otherwise they would ever be. The Rest is chiefly matter of mere Form. Abstracts of Petitions, and Things of small Import, which very few, even of the People of this Province, think worth perusing or enquiring after, much less are they worthy the Attention of "his Majesty or his Ministers." Therefore, and as it would be inconvenient to the House to make up and perfect their Minutes daily, so as to send a Copy of them to the Governor; and as We see no publick Service in such a Practice, nor know of any Right in the Governor so peremptorily to demand it, We are not inclined to alter our antient Custom. It

has been frequent not to print the Votes till the End of the year, and that without the least Design of keeping the Proceedings of the House a Secret from our Governors. And We suppose scarce any Votes of the same Bulk and Quantity have ever been pub-lished much sooner than these are like to be. When they appear, We conceive nothing will be found
[p.3v] in them, that can/give the least Reason to suppose they were affectedly delayed, or that the Governor's Charge against Us, of taking a very extraordinary and unconstitutional Measure to keep them a Secret from him, has any real Foundation. What the Con-struction is, that the Governor thinks our Conduct in this respect is liable to, We can neither know nor guess, but whatever it be, We had rather it had been spoken plainly than insinuated; for so We might have had an Opportunity of saying what should be proper in our Justification. However, as We are conscious of the firmest Loyalty to the Crown and most upright Intentions towards the People We represent, We are not very apprehensive of any great Prejudice from such Insinuations. And when We re-flect on the Weight and Importance of the Matters laid before Us in the Governors Message of the Morn-ing, in which he so earnestly presses Us to <u>Una-nimity</u> and <u>Dispatch</u>. We cannot but be surprized

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at receiving Messages of so different a kind in the Afternoon, such as can only tend to produce Division and Delay, and to waste our Time in Disputes on Things of little or no moment, when there is such Danger of losing the happy Opportunity mentioned by the Governor, and Unanimity between him and the House on this Occasion is so necessary to the publick Welfare. We would therefore humbly entreat the Governor, to suspend these irritating Accusations, and novel Demands, till a Season of more Leisure and permit Us to proceed without any further Interruptions of that Kind, on the Business for which he has been pleased to call Us together, and the very important Matters he has recommended to our Consideration.

Signed by Order of the House
Isaac Norris
Speaker

The 19th Day of the Month called March 1755.

Endorsed 19th March 1755 | Copy | Message from the Assembly to the Gov[r] [p 508]

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A Message from the Governor to the Assembly [p. m.]

Gentlemen.

On the 10th of Janry last I demanded by the Secretary a Copy of the minutes of your Proceedings which you Promised to send me but not receiving them I did on the 29th of the same Month by letter to the speaker again demand them and have frequently by the Secretary reiterated my request but could not Obtain a sight of them till the 19th Instant above two months a go after your rising and then only a Part of them were sent me in Print and I have not yet seen the whole of them.

The Keeping your Proceedings thus a secret from me I take to be a very unconstitutional extraordinary measure Lyable to a Construction That I do not chuse at Present to put upon it but only to Acquaint you that I expect you will order your Clerk to Attend me every night with the minutes of the day that I may know what is done and doing in your house and be able in time to lay the same before his Majesty and his Ministers who Expect to be Regularly informed of the measures taken by the Legislatures of the Colonies.

March 18th 1755. Robt H. Morris

Endorsed March 18th 1755 [Copy] Message to the Assembly [p. 1204]

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly [p. 221]

Gentlemen.

I Observe by the minutes of your Proceed-
-ings that you have Printed at large Sr Thomas Robin-
-sons letters to me of July 5th & October 21st last without
my Knowledge or Consent - The Kings Commands sig-
-nified by a Secretary of State may be very Proper
for the Consideration of the Different Parts of the
Legislature but are not always to be Communica-
-ted to the Publick I think it therefore necessary
Gentlemen to Caution you against the like prac-
-tice for the future and expect that no letters or
Papers Communicated by me shall be printed with-
-out my previous Approbation and as it may be
of Dangerous Consequence to Publish these letters I
desire a stop may be Put to the Publication of
that part of your minutes which contain them.

I have letters and other Papers that relate
to his Majestys service which I would willingly
Communicate to you but I do not think it safe
to do it till I have Proper Assurances from you
that the Contents of them shall remain secret.

March 18th 1755 Robt H. Morris

Endorsed March 18th 1755 / Copy / Message to the Assembly [p. 222]

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly [A.1755]

Gentlemen.

I have the Pleasure to acquaint you that Major Genl. Braddock who is appointed by his Majesty to Command the forces employed in north America is arrived in Virginia, and as the season for action is approaching, I thought it necessary to Summon you together, that any thing the Genl. had to Propose might be considered without delay, and that the men Provisions & money expected by his Majesty from this Province towards Carrying into Execution the measures concerted for the general Service of America might be Provided in time.

Sir John St. Clair Quarter Master genl. of His Majestys forces in America has represented to me the necessity of having a road opened from the inhabited Parts of this Province westward towards the Ohio not only for the march of troops but to facilitate the supply of Provisions to such forces as may be employed on the frontiers of this or the neighbouring Governments. I have therefore Issued a Commission to a number of men acquainted with that Country to reconoitre and Examine the same and to make out where such Road may most Conveniently be made and to make report to me of their Proceedings with an Estimate of the Expences

that will attead the opening and Clearing it and I recommend it to you to make a sutable Provision for this necessary Service.

It is said the large supply of Provisions that the french receivd from these Colonys has enabled them to support the forces employd in building forts in his Majestys territorys, and will enable them for some time at least to mentain the troops they have drawn together to defend them and tho this Province has been hitherto very little Concerned in that supply yet as it is necessary to Prevent it for the future I have Issued Orders [4.522] to the Officers of the/ Customs for that purpose and make no doubt you will Joyn with me in a Law effectually to hinder such an unaturall trade.

The Eastern governments who are Ever Ac-tive in the defence of their Country and in men-taining his Majestys Just rights and dominions in America are exerting themselves at this Juncture and are very desirous that this Province should Joyn in the Operations intended to frustrate the scheme of the french and to secure these Colonies against their future encroachments I therefore hope you will enable me to take such part in the measures proposed as becomes the honour & interest of a Province circumstanced as we are.

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Genl: Braddock by his letter of yt 28th of Last month which will be laid before you desires me to establish a Post between Philadelphia and Winchester for the forwarding his dispatches this he thinks may be of Great importance during the Operations of the Campaign and you will be Pleased to enable me to Comply with his Request.

His Majesty having by one of his Principal Secretarys of State Recommended it to the severall Provinces to establish a Common fund for the benefit of all the Colonys Collectively, Genl Braddock now desires that the Quotas of the severall Pro-vinces towards that Common fund may be lodg-ed in the hands of a Treasurer who may have orders to answer his demands; as this is in-tended to Expedite Business and the General is perfectly disinterested and declares himself will-ing to give an Account of his disbursements. I hope you will put it in my Power to return a satisfactory answer to his letter in that Particular.

I heartily Recommend to you Vigour unani-mity and dispatch in the matters you will have under your Consideration That the happy Oppor-tunity the Colonies now have by means of his Ma-jestys Paternal / Care and generous Assistance of [p. 225]

securing themselves for ever against the Attempts
of the french may not be lost

Robt. H. Morris

March 18th 1755

[Back] Endorsed Copy/ March 18th 1755/ Message to the As-
sembly

REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF ARCHIVES

A Message to the Governor from the Assembly. [p. 524]

May it please the Governor.

Though the Season of the Year and the Badness of the Roads, have made it difficult for many of Us to attend the Governor's Call of the House at this Time; yet considering the present Circumstances of Affairs, and the Matters of Importance he has been pleased to lay before Us, We return him our Thanks for giving Us this Opportunity of continuing to demonstrate our Loyalty to our King, our Regard to the British Interest in America, and our Care of the People We represent.

As we are resolved to contribute such Sums of Money, as may be consistent with our Circumstances on the present Occasion, We shall immediately proceed to consider the best Methods of raising and discharging the same, and shall forthwith prepare a Bill for that Purpose to be laid before the Governor for his Assent.

The other Parts of his Message will also come under our Deliberation with all possible Dispatch, that nothing may be wanting on our Part which may contribute to the Prosperity or Honour of this Colony: and if the Governor has received any further Intelligence which may be of Service to

Us in the Course of our Business, We make no Doubt he will be pleased to communicate it to Us for our Consideration.

Signed by Order of the House
Isaac Norris
Speaker

In Assembly the 21st Day of the 3d Mon. called March 1755

[1530]

Endorsed [copy] 20 March 1755 Assembly's Message to the Governor.

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly

Gentlemen.

Governor Shirley for securing the Colonies against the future encroachments of the french having among other measures formed a design to Build a fort near Crown Point within the Limits of his Majestys Territories and his Council and Assembly having Chearfully Concurrd with him in the thing He has sent Commissioners to this and other Governments to Solicit them to Joyn in the undertaking and some time ago wrote me fully upon the head.

Mr Quincy one of the Commissioners sent to this Province is arrivd and has made application to me and I now send you copy of his letter as also of Governor Shirleys message to his Council & Assembly their Resolutions upon it, and of his letter to me upon this and Other Affairs. and as you will see by those papers what is expected from this Province I heartily recommend it to you to grant the necessary supplys for that important service.

I must desire you to keep this affair secret for as you have given me no Assurances of doing so the bad Consequence of an untimely discovery may tho unjustly be attributed to you.

March 23d 1756 Robt H. Morris

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly. [p 213]

Gentlemen.

By express from Maryland I have an Ac-
count of the safe Arrival of the transports in Vir-
ginia with the troops & train of artillery destind
for American service upon which I heartily congratu-
late you.

His Majestys care and Affection for his sub-
jects in America has induced him to send this
large and Seasonable Assistance for the recovery of
those Possessions that the french contrary to the
faith of treatys have seized, and we shall be Great-
ly wanting to ourselves if we neglect to make use
of this Opportunity to frustrate the Attempts of that
Perfidous People.

To Render effectual the measures taken by his
Majesty and our mother Country upon this Occasion
it is expected that the Colonys shall raise an ad-
ditional number of men to Joyn those that his
Majesty has sent upon this service and that
they should furnish Provisions and all necessarys
to the forces employed for their Protection as you will
see by a Letter from the Earl of Halifax & another
from General Braddock to me which will be laid
before you and this is so reasonable in itself
that I cannot doubt of its being readily complyed

with by all the Provinces in proportion to their Abilitys and I hope that as Pensylvania is the most Interested in the Event of this Expedition you will exert yourselves as becomes the representatives of a People actually invaded and having their all depending upon the success of the present Enter.prize.

I therefore Earnestly beseech you, Gentlemen well to Consider what may be the Consequences of your now refuseing to grant the necessary Supplies as we may be assured his Majesty will not condescend (Sic)
repeatedly to recommend to you in vain the mak.
[P 534] .ing Provision for your Own defence, but will doubtless upon your refusal be enabled by his Parliament to Oblige those who reap the immediate Benifit of such a chargeable Protection to Contribute their Proportion of the Expence and if by a disappointment in the Articles Expected to be supplyd by you the great Ex.pence that the nation has been put to for y^e Secur.ing of those Valuable Branches of the British Em.pire should be rendered unavailable, you Cannot but think you will justly draw upon you the re.sentment of his Majesty and a British Parliament.

March 25th 1755 Robt H: Morris

Endorsed March 25th 1755 | Copy | Message to the Assembly

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A Message from the Governor to the Assembly [1755]

Gentlemen

Your Bill for striking twenty five thou-sand Pounds being contrary to his Majestys Instruc-tions relating to Paper money, and of the same na-ture with the bill I refused my Assent to the last sitting of Assembly. I cannot Pass it into a Law, with-out a breach of duty to the Crown, and I am concerned that you should Offer such a Bill to me when you had agreed to submit the dispute between us upon one of the like kind to his Majesty.

As this is a time of Eminent Danger and the forces (...) raised and destined for the service of the Colo-nies must wait the supplys from this Province I again entreat you to fall upon some other Method of raising money that we may not Loose this happy Opportunity of recovering his Majesties Do-minions now invaded by ye subjects of the french King and Preventing their unjust Encroachments for the future.

But if these repeated recommendations of so reasonable a Supply shall fail of the desird Ef-fect and any ill consequences should attend it his Majesty and his Ministers your Own Constit-tuants a British Parliament and the neighbouring Governments will be at no loss on whom to lay the blame.

April 1st 1755 Robt Ho: Morris

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A Message to the Governor from the Assembly [p.s.c.]

May it please the Governor,

When the present Sitting is ended, the Min. utes will be revised by the Committee appointed for that Purpose, and immediately printed; and when printed, a fair Copy will be presented to the Gov. ernor, according to our long continued Custom. Till then, We hope the Governor will excuse Us, if We do not permit any Person to inspect them, or any Copy of them to be taken.

Signed by order of the House

Isaac Norris

Speaker.

The 25th Day of the 3d Month called March 1755. a. m.

Endorsed Copy | 25 March 1755 | Assembly's Message to the Govern.r [p.s.c.]

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A Message from the Governor to the Assembly [A541]

Gentlemen.

I expect Gov^r Shirley & Gov^r Delancey in town this evening in their way to Annapolis to meet Gen^l Braddock Gov^r Dinwiddie and Gov^r Sharpe whether I Propose to Accompany them I Immagine they will chuse to go forward Early tomorrow Morn-ing as the affairs we are Called together upon will admit of no delay.

I think it necessary to notify this to you & recommend it to you to make a short adjourn-ment, as it is very Probable that I shall have sev-erall matters to lay before you upon my return

Rob^t H: Morris

Aprell 8^th 1755

Endorsed Aprell 8^th 1755/ Copy/ Message to the Assembly. [A542]

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[p. 604]

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly

Gentlemen.

I have Ordered the Secretary to Inspect the Journals of your House from the 17th to the 20th of this instant march both inclusive and to take a Copy thereof.

Robt H. Morris

March 21st 1755.

[p. 604]

Endorsed March 21st 1755 / Copy / Message to the Assembly

[1 of 5]

March 19th: 1755

Gentlemen.

Observing by the minutes of the Assem-bly which you sent me that two letters from S:r Thomas Robinson one of his Majestys Principal Sec-retarys of state to me the one of July 5th and the other of October 26th 1754 are there Printed at Large and as no Person or body in this Province has any right to make publick his Majestys Com-mands to me signified by a Secretary of State Further than I shall think Proper and as I con-ceive it may be very Prejudicial to his Majestys service to Publish those Letters I do therefore notifie the same to you and do hearby forbid you to Publish the same. I am,

Gentlemen your Most Humble Servt.

Robert H: Morris

To Messrs Franklyn & Hall Printers in Philad:a

[2 of 2]

Endorsed March 19th 1755/ Copy/ Governor Morris's Letter to/ Messrs Franklin & Hall.

[1554]

March 20th 1755

Sir.

We should with Great redeness & Submission have obeyd your Honours bommands in Forbearing to Publish the two Letters from Sir Thomas Robinson of July 5th & October 21st were it only a Concern of Our Own, or a matter in our Disposition. But as those Letters are containd in the Votes and Proceedings of the Assembly, and insisted thereon by their Order, we could not omit them without obtaining the Directions of the House. To that End we laid the bommands received from your honour before the Assembly. But the house has expresly Ordered us to Proceed directly in Publishing the Votes bontaining those Letters; and we being as their Printer, the immediate Servants of the House, are Obliged in this Matter to Obey their Orders. We therefore hope your Honour will excuse us and believe us to be, with all possible respect.

Your Honours most Obedient
and most Humble Servants
Franklin & Hall.

To the Honble Govr Morris

[1552]

Endorsed March 20th 1755/ Copy/ Franklin and Hall.

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly [p.003]

Gentlemen.

I have receivd intelligence that the french have fitted out fifteen sail of Line of Battle Ships with which they are sending Sea thow-sand Land forces and tho' the Kings Ministers are Informed of the Gen.l Destination of this Armament for north America yet the Particular Place they intind to make a discent upon is still a secret. But as they have already gained a footing and have a body of troops on the back of this Province and cannot be Ignorant of the defence-less state of this plenty full Colony. there is too much reason to fear that their designs may be against us.

I think it therefore my duty Gent.n to Call upon you to Enable me to put this Province into a Posture of defence by Establishing a regular Militia and providing the necessary stores of war.

Robt. Ho. Morris

Philad.a Aprill 3.d

1755

Endorsed Aprill 3.d 1755/ Copy/ Message to the Assembly [p.004]

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[1755]

A Message to the Governor from the Assembly

May it please the Governor.

As the season of the year is now favour-
-able and the time when the Indians ought to
Plant their Corn, we hope the heavy Charges we
have sustaind for Supporting them thro the Win-
-ter are nearly over, nevertheless as we are un-
-willing to leave them entirely beyond our Notice,
we are of Opinion it may be adviseable to settle
the Indians from Anghwick, and such others as
may continue to take refuge among us upon their
own Lands at French town, where there is, as
our Interpreter informs us, a Considerable Quanti-
-ty of cleard Land formerly an Indian Settle-
-ment - Here they might Plant their Corn, and
hunt towards their own Subsistance and Oc-
-casionally apply to this Government for help
in case of real Necessity. But as our Treasury
is exhausted by the immediate Calls of the
Crown in Support of the British Interest in N.
America, we are not able to Assist them in the
manner we could wish and desire; and what
we can do must be conducted wit(h) Justice and
frugality.

The Governor has been Pleased to recommend
to us particularly to make Provision for the

ensuing Treaty and to enable him to take proper notice of Scarrooyady, and the young men he has brought along with him" We should Provide for this Releif, & the young Men, to their Satisfac-tion. But as this is the first Time we have heard of the Treaty, and the Governor has not been pleasd to lay before us the necessity of such a Treaty, or the Matters to be treated of when there, [p 556]
we presume he will not expect any | Immediate resolves of the house, till he shall be Pleased to Communicate such further Information on that head, as he may Judge necessary.

Signed by order of the house
Isaac Norris Speaker

The 9th day of the 4th month Called Aprill 1755

[p 558]
Endorsed Aprill 9th 1755 | Copy | Message from the As-sembly to the Governor

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[p.207]

Sir

I had the honour to receive Your letter of the fifth of July 1754 with the Extract of Governor Shirley's Letter and the Answer thereto enclosed also Your Letters of the twenty fifth and twenty sixth of October

I should immediately have wrote to Mr. Shirley and communicated to Him my Plan for executing his Majesty's Commands had I not already so done some little Time before the receipt thereof which I found myself under a Necessity of doing being informed from very good Intelligence [p.208] that the French proposed next Summer as soon as the Fortifications of Louisbourg were put in tolerable repair to attempt the reduction of our Fort at Chignecto, as their Success in this Point would in a great measure have given them the Command of the Bay of Fundy, I thought it my indispensable (sic) duty to take the speediest and best measures to defeat their schemes by driving them entirely from the north side of the Bay very early in the Spring before they had time to collect their Force or their Ships of War could arrive from France.

In order to effect this I wrote a Letter to Governor Shirley a Copy of which I have the

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honour to enclose to you, and as it contains the whole Plan of our proposed operations It will be needless to say any more upon that Subject [p. 209] than that my Plan met with Mr Shirleys Concurrence Who gives me the greatest hopes of being furnished in due time with the Assistance I have asked from Him, and that matters will be carryed on on his Part (viz) with so much Secrecy that the French will not take the least Alarm untill our Project is ripe for Execution

The present posture of Affairs in America and our Vicinity to Louisbourg make it highly necessary for me at this time to be attentive to the Security of this Place and I take the liberty to assure You Sir that I shall employ every expedient in my Power to guard against any thing that may hap. pen. I am now preparing to build three Batterys of ten Guns each in the front of the Town which will be able to cope with a small Squadron not exceeding [p. 210] six ships of the line supposing They should by favourable Circumstances pass those Batterys already erected for the Defence of the Harbour, I make no doubt of finishing the Batterys in very good time notwithstanding the Difficultys that attend working in the Winter Season in this Country, but as We have neither the Guns nor their Appurtenances

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for the Batterys I now send one of the Province Sloops express to the Board of Trade and Planta. tion to press their being sent in due time

Permit Me to assure you Sir that nothing shall be wanting on my part either in the de. fence or Assertion of his Majesty's just rights in the Province I have the honour to be entrusted with the charge of, and I flatter my self I may [p.120] venture to say if the Stores I have demanded by this opportunity arrive in due time, We shall be able to frustrate any attempt that may be made against Us.

Mr. Shirley informs Me that He has al. ready acquainted you that the Captains of the twenty Gun Ship and Sloop of War on this Sta. tion have orders to put themselves under the Command of Commodore Keppell and that if He should send for them away it will entirely frustrate our scheme against the French on the North side of the Bay of Fundy, and at the same time has informed You that the Captains of the Station Ships at Boston and Carolina whose Assistance We expected for that purpose have received orders to the same Effect. We have [p.121] both wrote very pressingly to Mr. Keppell on this Subject and We flatter ourselves it will be in

his Power to spare Us some naval Force at least untill He can hear from England upon that head

I am with the highest respect / Sir

Your most obedient and

most humble Servant

Chas Lawrence

Halifax in Nova Scotia

Jan.y 12. 1755

The Right Hon: Sir Thomas Robinson

[p.334] Endorsed Nova Scotia Jan.y 12th 1755 / Lt. Gov.r Lawrence /

R.d March 5th

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Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Governor Lawrence to Governor Shirley dated Halifax November 5th 1754

Sir

I had the honour to receive by Lieutenant Patishall your Excellencys favours of October the 5th and the 12th together with the printed copy of your Conference with the Eastern Indians, for which I am to return Your Excellency my thanks and to congratulate you on the success of that important and Seasonable expedition, the particulars whereof you have been so good to take the trouble of communicating to me: That it will answer effectually every end proposed is as much to be presumed as to be wished and I persuade myself your Excellency will acquire from it, much secret satisfaction, much publick Reputation. I could not have had a more favorable introduction to the remaining part of this Letter than the concluding paragraph of your Excellencys wherein You make mention of the Encouragement you have had from Sir Thomas Robinson concerning the Removal of the French from the Isthmus of Chignecto and St Johns River.

Being well informed that the French have designs of Encroaching still farther upon his

Majestys Rights in this Province, and that they pro-
[p.2]
pose the moment they have / repaired the Fortifica-
tions of Louisbourg, to attack our Fort at Chignecto,
I think it high time to make some Effort to drive
them from the North Side of the Bay of Fundy;
But as it is impossible for me to collect men enough
to execute this design without weakening the Me-
tropolis and exposing the Settlers in this Part of
the Province to the insults of the French and In-
dians. I have sent the bearer Lieutenant Colonel
Monckton to solicit your Assistance and to ad-
vise with your Excellency how such an under-
taking may be carried on with the greatest
Privacy and Effect: He has my directions to pro-
pose to yow the Raising two thousand Men
which if he can Effect early in the Spring will,
I believe with what regular Troops I shall be
able to add to them, be sufficient to do the
Business; I do not propose to put Your Excellen-
cys Province to any expence upon this Occasion,
but to defray all Charges that may arise out
of the money granted for this Colony, concerning
which I have allready wrote to Lord Halifax. Your
Excellency must, undoubtedly, be sensible what an
advantage we shall gain upon the French by
Attacking them first, more specially as their

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chief dependa[nce] [on me] is the Indians and our deserted
Inhabitants who most probably will leave them
when they find they are not able to keep their
ground and who would infallibly assist them
if they should/ begin with us: These consider[p.252]a-
-tions have induced me to put this design in exe-
-cution as early in the Spring as may be, before
the Ships of War are arrived at Louisbourg from
France, They will then be in the greatest want
of Provisions and Warlike Stores, and what I flat-
-ter myself will greatly favour our design at
this Juncture, is the Encroachment the French have
made upon the Ohio, to which Place their Force
and Attention seems at Present to be entirely drawn
off: And I should be guilty of the highest neglect
if I did not endeavour to avail myself of this
opportunity, as well to assert his Majestys just
and undoubted right to that Country they have
so unwarrantably taken Possession of, as to
shew all the Resentment in my Power to their
insults on his Dominions and Subjects to the South-
-ward, and perhaps to facilitate their Extrpa-
-tion in those Parts by still further inciting a
diversion of their Force and adding to the Alarm
your Excellencys late Expedition and those Marks
of your Military skill You have left behind

on the Kennebeck, must undoubtedly have given them. I have thus far laid before your Excel. -lency my reasons for desiring Your Assistance at this important and Critical Juncture; the
[p. 256]
most pressing/ is Self Preservation, being, as I said before, well informed that they design to attempt our Fort at Chignecto as soon as their Affairs will admit of such an Enterprize, and I am the far. ther induced to give credit to this Information because I well know the difficultys they labour under at present for want of Land to put the Deserted Inhabitants upon who they are now obliged chiefly to maintain at the Kings Charge, and for want of a free Navigation in the Bay of Fundy they are put to such Streights for Provisions, that they dare not collect the Indians in Bodys near them for fear so great a Con. -sumption, should cause a general Famine and oblige them to quit the Country; This I say Sir is my first and Principal inducement, strong. -ly Corroborated by the great desire I have to shew a proper Resentment to their Encroachments upon this Colony in particular, and their Vio. -lation of Treatys all over his Majestys Dominions on the Continent of America. And these Con. -siderations must undoubtedly be of the greatest

weight with a Person of Your Excellencys known
Zeal for his Majestys Interest and the Publick
Welfare; But I must still mention some few things
that comes properly under Your Notice in Your
particular charge of the / Massachussets: As Your [p.309]
Excellency was the first Mover of the Undertaking the
Settlement of this Province, by way of a Barrier to the
eastern Parts of New England, You may well conceive
how little it can answer that design W^hile the
French Possess Beausejour and S^t Johns River as they
have by that means a Short and easy communica-
tion, by way of Bay Verte, from Louisbourg to S^t
Johns, I think only five days March, as well as the
opportunity of annoying the Shipping of your Ex-
cellencys Government from the North side of the
Bay in time of War. Neither do I imagine that
this Colony can answer any Purpose untill the French
are driven away from our Neighbourhood, as they
are Continually using every means in their Power
to draw our French Inhabitants from their duty
and Allegiance by Threats, Promises and Forgerys
that they propogate amongst them by means of their
Missionarys, as well as the Annoyance they give his
Majestys Subjects by the Indians who they are
forever setting on, to perpetrate Mischief and to
discourage any Attempt that may be made to

cultivate the Land and extend our Settlements.

[p 2to] /I am sensible I have allready taken up too much of Your Excellencys time by enlarging upon a Subject You are much better versed in than my. -self. I shall now proceed to inform you that I have already taken the Precaution of Sending two armed Vessells into the Bay with Positive orders to prevent any Corn being carried to the French from Pisiguid, Mines and Annapolis Royal, for which pur. -pose the Council of this Province have passed an Act laying a very heavy penalty on the Exportation of Grain without a Permit from me. I wish we could as easily prevent their being supplyid from the Continent. but that, I fear, we cannot so Effectually hinder tho' nothing in my power shall be wanting towards it

The next thing to be considered is the Se. -curity of this Town against any Revenge the French may attempt by Slipping. We have on this Station a twenty Gun Ship and a Sloop and the twenty Gun Ship and Sloop from Carolina are or. -dered to be here in the Spring. And I have by this Opportunity wrote pressingly to Captain Legge to come as early as possible: I propose also, if Your Excellency has no Objections, to apply to the Captain

[p 3to] of the Station Ship at Boston for / his Assistance,

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but I apprehend it will be time enough to do that after I have heard from You. I propose that the bearer Colonel Monckton shall conduct this Expedition he being a Person every way Qualify'd as well by his Rank and Ability as his knowlege of the Place. The Officers of the Troops to be raised I leave entirely to your Excellency begging the favour of You to appoint under Your Commission such Persons as you shall think most proper.

For the better Execution of this Design, I have given Colonel Monckton an unlimited Credit upon Messieurs Apthorp & Hancock and I must desire the favour of Your Excellency before this is communicated to them to engage them to the profoundest Secrecy, for on that every thing depends. As every Step to be taken here must depend upon the Possibility of raising the Men and the Progress made therein, I shall impatiently expect the honour of hearing from Your Excellency by the very first opportunity. Colonel Monckton's Powers and Instructions are made out as You will perceive Sir in the most general terms, in order to obviate any Difficulties that might be incurred by confining [p. 262] him too much to Particulars. In the fullest Persuasion that this most necessary and usefull Enterprize

will meet with your Excellencys hearty concur-
-rence, I beg leave to assure you that I am.

Signed Charles Lawrence

Endorsed Copy of a Letter from/ Lieutenant Gov-
-ernor/ Lawrence to Governor/ Shirley dated Halifax/
8th November 1754/ in Lt Govr Lawrences Letter/ of Jany 12th
1756.

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[p. 209]

Boston New England Jan^{y} 24th 1755.

Sir,

I Inclose you the Copy of a Deposition taken before M^{r} Allen Chief Justice of Pensilvania, w^{ch} Governor Morris sent me by the last Post, & an Extract from his Letter to me, which will shew you the Credit M^{r} Morris gives to the Intelligence contain'd in it.

The late Accts we have had from Nova Scotia, of the General Expectation that the French will Act offensively there in the Spring, (Copies of w^{ch} I have already transmitted you) the Extract from Lieut^{r} Hamilton's Letter, and the Minute of the Intelligence, w^{ch} M^{r} Pownall sent his Brother the latter End of last November, which I now Inclose, seem all to strengthen the Probability of the Truth of this News, as to the main Substance, if not every particular of it; The Acc^{t} likewise, w^{ch} Governor Morris had before received from Gov^{r} Sharp at Willis's Creek in Virginia of 2000 French Regulars being arriv'd upon the Ohio in the be-ginning of the year, seem to render the Intelli-gence brought by these Deserters from M^{r} Contre-cœur's Camp there still more likely.

If it is true, Sir, the French's having a Naval Force in the Neighbourhood of Nova Scotia [p. 210]

is a very alarming Circumstance: should they make their Appearance as soon as the Season will permit them, either before Halifax, or which seems more probable, in Bay Vert or the Bay of Fundy & his Majesty have no Ships there to oppose them, it seems not to be doubted but that all the Accadians, to a Man, those of Minas & Annapolis River, as well as the Revolted Inhabitants of Schiegnecto, (wch may in the whole contain 5 or 6000 fighting Men) will openly declare for the French, & together with the French Indians & Regulars most likely augmented in some degree would make a formidable Body; especially when supported by a Force at Sea; which would at least cut the English off from being relievd from New England.

What the Consequences, Sir, of such an Event would be I need not Observe to you; if they could be retrievd afterwards, it would at least be the Business of an Expensive War to do it.

You are the best Judge, Sir, what Grounds there are to give Credit to this Intelligence: If it should appear to deserve so much as not to be entirely neglected, I would submit it to your Consideration, whether it might not be a prudent Precaution to guard against the fatal Effects, of
[f 310]
the Truth of it, by sending a sufficient Naval

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force in time for that purpose: tho' it should prove a Mistake, yet, according to the present Aspect of Affairs, Business enough might be found in these Seas for the Ships, and the Expence of the Equip-ment, even in such case, not lost: And if those should be your Sentiments Sir, & the Vessell, which carryes this, should have an ordinary Passage for this Season, it may arrive in England by the first Week in March, which would probably be in time for fitting out some of his Majesty's Ships to reach Nova Scotia early in May; be-fore wch time no large Ships will venture up-on the Navigation of St Lawrence's River: if any, after the supposd Disembarkation of the Troops at Quebec should have returnd back the last Fall as far as the Bay of Gaspe, they might indeed in such case possibly make us a Visit something earlier.

In the mean time Sir, this News seems to be a strong reason for hastening the 2000 Levies destin'd for the Expedition, which Colo. Law-rence & I are concerting for driving the French out of Nova Scotia, before they are ready to strike the first Blow there; or, if we should be too late for that (which I hope will not be the case) that the Troops may arrive there in

time, at least to prevent the Accadians from ris-
[p.330]
-ing, & to repel any Attempt of the French for
making themselves Masters of the Peninsula.

For this purpose such preparations have been
making here, as are consistent wth the Secrecy re-
-quisite in this Case; & a few days hence I shall
open the Matter to the Assembly of this Province,
& the Governours of the three other Colonies of New
England, & begin to raise the Men; and I think
there is an exceeding fair prospect of the Levies
being compleated, & imbarkd with Great Artillery
Ammunition & Stores of all kinds provided here;
(good Firelocks excepted, which I shall be in hopes
of having sent in time from England) before the
last Week in March, or by the latter End of it
at furthest.

Could I be sure Sir, that Major General
Braddick under whose Directions I am with re-
-spect to my own Regiment, would order that
& Sir Wllm Pepperells, or one of them to Nova Scotia
upon the present intended Expedition there, I might,
I believe from the present Success of the Levies
for my own Regiment, have trusted to its being
compleated by the beginning or Middle of March,
and in such Case I would not have raisd more
than one Regiment of 1000 Men to have proceeded

with them to Nova Scotia; I mean if my Regimt
Officers, Arms, Cloathing, Bedding, Camp Utensils [p. 225]
&c. should arrive in time for the Service: But as
the Great Number of the French Regular Troops now
assembled upon the Ohio, & the bad Aspect of Af-
-fairs in the Western Colonies made it seem
doubtfull, whether the General might not Order
mine & Sr William Pepperells Regiments to that part
of the Continent, in wch case it appears to me
that Nova Scotia with the Bay of Fundy, we
would be expos'd to the most imminent Danger
of being lost to the French unless his Majestys
Troops there should be strengthen'd with the
2000 New England Men, propos'd to me by Coll
Lawrence to be rais'd in time, to be landed
at Schiegneeto as early as may be in the
Spring; wch cannot be effected if I delay be-
-ginning to raise 'em longer than the first Week
in February; I thought such a Delay would be
too great a Risque for me to run, for the Sake
of saving some Money to the Government, es-
-pecially as his Majesty's Service may probably
require that whole force & a much greater up-
-on this Continent soon; I therefore have deter-
-min'd not to defer it longer than the begin-
-ning of Feb'y unless I should receive an Acct from

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Colonel Lawrence of some Alteration in his Scheme; which I do not expect to do - I have sent him [p mr] an Accot of our Intelligence from the Ohio, & am in daily Expectation of hearing from him upon it.

These Motions of the French Sir, upon that River & the Body of Troops, which we cant doubt but that they sent to Quebec from France the last fall, tho' perhaps not so large an one, or of picked Troops, as the Deserters affirm (which yet may be true for ought that appears) as also the Families which have begun to settle in the Country of the Twightwees, discover plainly that y^e^ French are determind to use their utmost Efforts to make themselves Masters of the Lakes & Rivers & all the Country between Canada & the Mississippi, together with the numerous Nations of Indians inhabiting it behind the Apalachian Mountains; and if they maintain their Ground there this year, it seems impossible to prevent a total Defection of every one of the six Nations to them.

At the same time Sir, if there are any considerable French Ships of War in the River S^t^ Lawrence, or the Bay of Gaspe or at Louisbourg, as there seems reason to Apprehend there may be some; there are just grounds to expect, they will make their Appearance before Bay Vert, as soon as the Season of the

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year will permit them to favour their [0321] extending
their Incroachments upon the peninsula, which they
seem by all dect: to be under a Necessity of do-
ing as far as Minas, in Order to find room for
the revolted Inhabitants of Schiegnecto to resettle;
& as it would greatly facilitate their doing that
if they could induce the Inhabitants of Minas
& Annapolis River to join 'em which would give
'em an Addition of upwards of 4000 fighting
Men, & the most fruitfull part of the Country.
I would submit it Sir to your Consideration, whe-
ther an Attempt to do it is not justly to be ap-
prehended from them, & whether the Appearance
of their Ships, in case the King should have
none there to oppose them would not encourage
the Accadians of Minas & Annapolis River to fol-
low the Example of those of Schiegnecto, and
openly declare for the French; especially if the
Kings Troops there should not be strengthenid wth
the intended Reinforcement from New England.

The Court of France, Sir, in the Memorial of
their Commissaries upon the limits of Accadie delivrd
to his Majesty's Commissaries at Paris in 1700, claimd
the whole Country to the Westward & Southward of
the River St. Lawrence as far as the Kennebeck on one
Side of the Bay of Fundy, & the City of Port

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Royal (now Annapolis Royal) on the other side, & they may with the same pretensions seize upon it, as far as Annapolis Royal as they have done upon the Isthmus. The exceeding strong hold it will give them of the Peninsula seems to be a sufficient Temptation to put them upon attempting it, especially as they must be alarmd for the Safety of their present Possessions there, upon the raising of two English Regimts in their Neighbourhood.

And if we may judge how determind the French are to establish themselves in the Possession of what they pretend to have a Right to in Nova Scotia from the lengths, they have gone to seize upon & maintain themselves in their groundless pretensions on the Ohio & Country Adjacent, it is most reasonable to expect they will make the Attempts, I have before mentioned upon the Peninsula early this Summer, if not prevented by suitable Measures on our part.

If they should succeed, Sir, in those Attempts, & not content themselves with the Acquisition of what they insist, they have a Right to take from us by any kind of Violence, without being guilty of a Violation of the Peace concluded in 1749 between the two Crowns, but think fit to proceed to what they must call Acts of Hostility, as soon as they

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shall judge they are strong enough to do it up-
-on this Continent, I am affraid, that upon tak-
-ing a View of the Situation, they will be in,
& the Strength they will have when they have
extended their Incroachments the lengths I have
mentioned, we shall find no great Reason to
flatter ourselves with the hopes of a long Con-
-tinuance of Peace with them.

If they maintain their Ground, Sir, in
the Western parts of his Majestys Territories here
they will by the End of the Year or following
Spring have gaind the whole Body of Indians in-
-habiting that Country together with the Six
Nations over to their Interest, (as I have before
observd), & have establish'd a Line of Forts upon the
Great Lakes & Rivers from Canada to the Missis-
-sippi, close upon the Back of the English Colonies
from South Carolina to New York.

It may be computed that in the four
first mention'd of these Colonies, reckon'd together,
there are full as many Negro Slaves capable of bear-
-ing Arms as there are white fighting Men; All
which would be in great Danger of being seduc'd
from their Fidelity to their Masters by Promises of
liberty, & Lands to settle upon, from a Body of French
& their Dependents able to receive & protect them against

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the English: & it is well known, how much those Colonies abound with Roman Catholicks, Jacobites, Indented Servants for long terms, & transported Convicts, who, far from being to be depended upon against the Enemy, would, doubtless, many of them instigate the Slaves to rebel, & perhaps join with them, to all which must be added the great Numbers of Germans scatterd thro' these four Colonies, several of 'em Roman Catholicks, & all of them indifferent about changing the English for a French Government, provided they could be eas'd of their present Quit Rents, & have their Grants of Land inlargd to them.

As to the two Colonies of Pensilvania & New York, tho' their Negro Slaves bear no proportion to their white Inhabitants, yet in the former of 'em the Governmt is compos'd chiefly of Persons, whose religious Principles hinder them from putting the Country into a proper Posture of Defence against an Enemy, & another third part of the Inhabitants consists of Germans, whose Attachmt to the English Governmt may for the Reasons before mention'd be suspected in a time of Distress: & those who are best acquainted with the History of the Behaviour of the People of New York in every War, with the People of New England have had with Indians or French,

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won't scruple to say, that [p. 337] one part of it, viz: Albany would surrender to the French upon the first Summons, if they could preserve their Trade by it; & the City of New York itself, it is thought, when they had such an Enemy upon their Backs, might be made an Easy prey to them; especially as the Indians of the six Nations have no small Contempt for & Resentment against their Government. It is certain that the part, which they are said (with too great Appearance of truth) to have acted, thro' the Commissioners for Indian Affairs at Albany in two late Treaties, one with the Cag. nawages (French Indians) for a Neutrality between their Governmt and them in case of a War be. tween the English and French, the other for a Neutrality between the English Mohawks, & the Cagnawagas in the like Case, seems to be an extraordinary Instance of their unconcernidness in the common Cause.

If we take a View of what their Situ. ation & Strength will be in Nova Scotia, when they shall have extended their Incroachments as far as Annapolis Royal, and are join'd by the Inhabitants of the Districts of Minas & Scheignecto, they will then have establish'd a Communication with Canada across the Bay of Fundy, & thro'

St. John's River on the one Side, & with St. John's Island & Cape Breton thro' Bay Vert & the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the other, & will be strengthend with 6000 fighting Men of the Acadians, besides the Indians of St. John's River & the Peninsula; which with a further reinforcement of 1000 or 1500 Regu-lars, whom it would not be difficult for them to land upon the Peninsula on such an Occasion, would have it in their Power to remove the pres-ent English Garrisons & Settlemts, & make themselves Masters of that whole Province, the Rivers Pentagoet & Kennebeck, & the Eastern parts of New England, with the Province of New Hampshire quite as far as Merrimack River; all which would give them a Country & Sea Coast capable of maintaining a large Body of Forces at Land &, together with Louis-bourg, stationing a Naval Force sufficient to dis-pute the Mastery of these Seas; & those parts of the King's Woods, from whence the British Navy is at present almost wholly supply'd with Masts, Yards, & Bowsprits: At the same time that they strike this Blow in the Eastern part of his Majesty's Colonies, It seems no extravagant Supposition to say that they may have it in their Power, when augmented with all the Indians & the Negroes in the Western Colonies, and such a further Reinforcement of

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Regular Troops, as may be sent from France in the Fall, by another / sudden blow to make them- [p. 329]
.selves Masters of Pensilvania & Albany, if not of the City of New York itself: and this would give them two fertile Provinces in the Heart of his Majesty's Western Colonies capable of support-
.ing them & their new Allies upon the Lakes & Rivers, & in the Country adjacent, which of it-
.self must, if cultivated in a short time be-
.come one of the finest Grainaries, & Countries for breeding Cattle & other live Stock in the World.

In such case, Sir, they might afford to quit the barren Soil & inhospitable Climate of Cana-
.da, & transplant the Inhabitants to People their new Acquisitions in the English Colonies, leaving perhaps their Settlement of Montreal to guard the head of the Lakes, & a strong Garrison only in their Fort at Quebeck, to prevent the Settlement of English there, if the Country should be then thought worth the Expence of making any.

If both these Blows, Sir, should be struck, it seems much to be fear'd, that they might be decisive; it must be extremely difficult in such case to recover the conquer'd Colonies from the French: Nova Scotia once lost to them, which is the Northern Key of this Continent, would open an Entrance for

as many Troops, as they should think fit to pour into it from old France; & it is more probable that France would accomplish the Reduction of all the British Colonies upon the Continent, than [p.330] that Great Britain should dispossess her of her Conquests; tho' the latter Power should preserve her Superiority upon the Atlantic Ocean, yet her Ships would avail her no further, than as they would serve to intercept the French Troops, or re-inforce the British Colonies with a sufficient Number of her own, to encounter them: Without such Succours the four Govts of New England, wch in this Distress would be the principal Ressource within the Colonies, would not be able to afford the Western ones any effectual Relief, & must themselves at length yield to a Superior Force.

If it should be demanded, what reason there is to fear the French will get such a footing both in the Western & eastern parts of the British Colonies & gain such a Strength there, as to enable them to strike these Blows; it may be said as to the Western parts, that the French are already in possession of all the great Lakes & Rivers behind the Apalachian Mountains from Canada to Mississippi, have a large Body of Troops, & Indians Assembled there & daily increasing, & a strong

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line of Forts built, wch they are now busy in for-
-tifying; and if their progress is not stopp'd this
year by some very speedy & vigorous Efforts the
Western Colonies (wch there is but a small Appear-
-ance of at present) in addition to the Force of his
Majesty's Troops, that may be employ'd in that
Service, they must infallibly in a short time
gain the (sic) whole Body of the Indians over to their [p331]
Interest; & it is not improbable, that they may be
join'd by the English Negro Slaves: very dangerous
Conspiracies of the Negroes unarm'd, & unsupported
by any other Force, to make a general rising a-
-gainst their Masters, have been frequent in these
Colonies, one happen'd about fourteen Years ago
in New York, tho' the Slaves are very few in
Number there in proportion to that of the white
Inhabitants; in Jamaica, a large Body of run-
-away Negroes held out many years against the
whole Force of the Island, wch was not able to
subdue them at last: When those of the four
most Western Colonies shall be intic'd wth large
Promises by the French from without, who are able
to support them, & instigated by their Emissaries
within, to rise against or desert their Masters,
there is the utmost reason to apprehend, that
they in general will seek an Opportunity to do it.

& when Arm'd and disciplin'd by the French might in conjunction wth them & the Indians & Germans form a Body not inferior either in Numbers or Force to the united Strength of the Western Colonies; & in that case it seems very practicable for them to possess themselves of the two western Colonies before mention'd: Instances of sudden Revolutions have happen'd in powerfull States; one proceeding from the Causes I have mention'd must in it's [4 222] Nature be so, & when/conducted by People of so enterprizing a Spirit & so rapid in their Motions, as the French, would not be unlikely to succeed: At least such a Scheme is suited to their Genius & principles, & to their original plan of making themselves Masters of this Continent.

As to the practicableness of the French's extending their Incroachments this year upon the Peninsula of Nova Scotia, as far as Annapolis Royal, in case the Inhabitants of the Districts of Minas & Annapolis River should take up Arms for them, there seems to be no reasonable doubt of it: & it is far from being improbable, that they may: If the French should Attack Fort Lawrence this Spring, wch Col. Lawrence hath Intelligence they design to do, & there is great reason to expect they will, it could not hold out a day against a very few small

Cannon, & the Forces of all kinds, they can bring against it from the Isthmus: the best to be hopd for in such case, is that the English Garri-son might make a good retreat; which, it is great-ly to be feard, would of itself incourage the Acadians of Minas & Annapolis River to join with their revolted Brethren of Schiegnecto in openly de-claring for the French, if that would not do it, the Appearance of two or three French Ships of War in Bay Verte or the Bay of Fundy at the same time certainly would; and it seems very [p. 999] easy, when the French / are thus strengthend there, to find an Opportunity of landing a Number of Troops upon the Peninsula wch in conjunction with the Force, they will then have upon it, may be able to strike the Blow, I have before mentiond, in Nova Scotia, and the Eastern parts of New England.

I have now set before your View, Sir, which (2) tho' I think not merely visionary, but what may take place, unless proper Measures are usd in the Colonies to prevent the French from realizing it, yet I doubt not but that with due Care it may be easily changd: as to that part of it wch is laid in Nova Scotia & the Eastern parts of New England, I am in great hopes that the Measures

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wch Colo Lawrence and I are concerting for dis-
-possessing the French early this Summer of their
Forts upon the Peninsula & St. John's River, & remov-
-ing them out of Nova Scotia, will with the As-
-sistance of some of his Majesty's Ships break all
their Schemes there; & as to those, wch they are
executing upon the Lakes & River Ohio, the build-
-ing of a strong Fort this Year upon the Streight
of the Lake Erie capable of holding a Garrison
sufficient to defend it against the Force, wch the
French can bring to attack it, & a few proper
Vessells to navigate the Lake would of itself
greatly disconcert their Measures, put a Stop to
their Progress upon the Ohio, & among the Indians
[p. 336]
inhabiting round it; / the demolishing their Fort
at Crown point, & building another upon the
Eminence near it at the hither End of Lake Cham-
-plain within 120 Miles of Mountreal, & a few Ves-
-sells to navigate that Lake; likewise another Strong
Fort near the Head of the Kennebeck, within about
the same Distance from Quebec, could not fail of
causing a great Diversion to their Schemes upon
the Ohio, by obliging them to draw off a con-
-siderable Force for the Security of their two Capi-
-tal Cities in Canada; This too would have no
small Influence upon the Minds of the Indians,

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both for retaining such of the six Nations as are not yet gone over to the French, & recovering back those, which are: a small Fort or two built likewise in their Country for the Shelter & protection of their Wives & Children, & old Men against the French would be a considerable Circumstance wth them; & if it should be thought Adviseable to break up the French Settlemt up-on the River Chaudiere; that would have a surprizing Effect for alarming them in their Metropolis of Quebec: tho' I did not think it proper for me to go those Lengths in the late Expedition from this place without his Majestys express Orders or leave, yet there seems no doubt of his Majestys having a just Right to do it, if the Inhabitants should refuse to remove upon a due Summons.

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I am now speaking Sir, of what I think might & should be done here this year: 8 000 Men raisd by the Provinces of Pensilvania, Maryland, Virginia, & the two Carolina's in addition to the two Irish Regiments daily expected at Virginia, would be a sufficient Strength to affect the Service needfull at present upon the Lakes & the Ohio, & 5000 Men raisd by the four Colonies of New England & the Province of New York, & the

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New Jerseys in addition to mine & Sir William Pepperell's Regiments now raising, one of wch with 2000 of the Irregulars to be employ'd in the Ser. -vice to be done upon the Kennebeck, & the Chau. -diere, & the other Regiment with the remaining 3000 Irregulars to be employ'd in demolishing the French Fort at Crown point, & building an English one there, & the Forts in the Country of the five Nations might accomplish both Services within the Year.

But in such Case, Sir, it will be necessary that His Majesty's Royal Pleasure should be im. -mediately sent to his several Governors, to be communicated to their respective Assemblies in strong terms, with 15000 Stands of fire Arms, Bayonetts & Accoutrem^ts & a proportionable Quantity of powder & Flints, with a proper Train of Ar. -tillery for the Field, &c

[p.936] /I know of no Articles in which his Ma. -jesty's Royal Bounty would be bestowd upon his Northern Colonies more beneficially for his own Services, or their Welfare, especially at this Con. -juncture, as those of small Arms & field Artil. -lery: There are upwards of 200,000 fighting Men, exclusive of those who are not subject to do Mili. -tary Duty except in Case of an Alarm, but

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notwithstanding the provincial Laws in all of them (except in the Govt of pensilvania) wch oblige the Inhabitants to be furnish'd with Arms, yet I dare say, one third part of 'em at least are not. & those firelocks which are to be found among them are many of them not so fit for Defence against an Enemy as they ought to be, & most of them of different Bores: There certain.ly ought to be lodg'd in their publick Magazines 50,000 firelocks & Bayonetts in the whole ready for publick Service upon any Emergency: But I believe there are very few in all their Arsenels at pres.ent: I know the Forts in this Province have not 450 in them: I have indeed, the last Session prevaild upon the Assembly to send to England for 2500 Musquets & Bayonets, but I could obtain no more out of 'em for Castle William than 600; the Rest are to be distributed among the Towns in proportion to their respective Rates: I have no Reason to think that the Arsenels in [2339] the other Colonies are better furnish'd; the only one I have heard of is that of Maryland where they have a publick Magazine of small Arms, but not of many hundreds unless Govr Sharp obtain'd some for the Province at his coming over: These Arms would be of much more Service than Money, & if

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his Majesty shou'd be pleas'd to order a Quantity to be distributed among all his Northern Colonies, & lodg'd in the publick Magazines there for his Service as his Gov^rs should Order. I believe it would be a most acceptable Royal Bounty, well suited to the time, & have a very good Effect for his Service in all those Colonies.

[There is no Appearance of the several Assemblies agreeing among themselves upon any one Plan of an Union, either General, or Partial; By what I can learn of the Sentiments of them all, the only three points they can agree in, are; that there is a Neces.-sity for an Union; that it must be establish'd by Act of Parliament, whatever it is; & that they don't like the Plan concerted by the Commissioners at Al.-bany; w^ch all of 'em conceive to infringe upon their Colony-Liberties, & privileges: Now, Sir, when it is con.-sider'd that the Albany Commissioners were of the Assemblies's choosing, & in reality a Sett of Gentlemen
[p 330]
of the best Abilities that/perhaps could be found among 'em, & all zealously attach'd to the Interests of their respective Gov^t That the Plan they concluded on, is particularly guarded against breaking in up.-on the Privileges of any one particular Gov^t within the Colonies: That the Power of raising the Forces & erecting the Forts necessary for the defence of the

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propos'd General Govt. the Appointment of Officers Mili-
-tary as well as Civil within it; & the raising & dis-
-position of the Money for the Support of it, are by
that plan vested in the People, or which is near
the same thing; the Grand Council chosen by the
several Assemblies, leaving to his Majesty the mere
Shadow of a Power in the Negative allow'd to his
Governor General; when all this, I say, Sir, is con-
-sider'd; & the Assemblies still think this Plan not
popular enough, it seems to take away all Expectation
that any proper plan will ever be concerted in the
Colonies, & to Shew the necessity of his Majesty's Minis-
-ters forming one; to be established by the Parliam.t of
Great Britain in time to preserve them from being
made a Prey, in their disunited State to the com-
-mon Enemy.]

If it should be his Majesty's Pleasure, Sir, to
Order 5000 Men to be rais'd by the four Colonies of
New England, & the Provinces of New York, & New Jerseys
for the Service before propos'd to be/done this year [239]
upon their Frontiers; I believe it would facilitate the
matter if his Majesty would be pleas'd to Allot the
proportion of Men, wch. should be raisd in each Govern-
-mt., as also of the espences which each should bear in
building the Forts propos'd to be built there & in the
Country of the Mohawkes; & that there should be a like

Allotment of the proportions of the 6000 Men propos'd to be rais'd in the before mention'd five western Colonies, & of the Expence which each of 'em should bear in building the Grand Fort upon the Strait of Lake Erie, & effecting the other Service upon the Ohio & Great Lakes; & proper Engineers should be sent over for these purposes.

I beg leave to Observe to you here, Sir, that I believe near four fifths of the Men for compleating Sr William Pepperell's & my Regiments, as also of the 2000 Levies propos'd to be sent this Spring to Nova Scotia will be rais'd out of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay; as also that the Expence of this Govermt in the late Expedition upon the Kennebeck & building Fort Halifax there, amounts to about £12000 [or 14] Sterling, which I mention that a proper Consideration may be had of their Proportion of the Men & Money to be furnished for carrying on the propos'd Operations by the six most Eastern Colonies, this Year.

[p mo] | Since finishing the last Paragraph a Trader in the Bay of Fundy who left Schiegnecto the 26th of last Month, hath inform'd me that the French Settlements upon St Johns River, increase very fast, & that the French are very busy in streagthening their principal Fort at Beau Sejour upon the Isthmus.

I take the Liberty, Sir, to inclose an Extract

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from the last Letter, I received from Colonel Lawrence.

I am with the greatest Respect.

Sir.

Your most Humble and

most Obedient Servant.

W Shirley.

The Rt. Hon.ble Sir Thomas Robinson Knt. of the Bath,
one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

Endorsed Boston jan.y 24.th 1753/ Gov.r Shirley/ R March 30.th

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[Draft]

The Examination of Charles Bourteray a Deserter from the French Camp on the Ohio taken before William Allen Esqr. Chief Justice of the Province of Pensilvania on Saturday the twenty eighth day of December one thou.sand seven hundred and fifty four.

This Examinant says that he was born at Lisle in Flanders and was taken Prisoner by the French at Bergenopzoom and carried to Rochel (sic) and there put on board a vessell going to Quebec where he arriv'd four years ago and serv'd in the Garrison. That at the End of the summer about three months ago six men of War arriv'd from old France at Que.bec each having had in her a thousand Soldiers but that many of them Dyed in their Passage, that the six thousand men were all Gra=nadiers pick'd as the ablest men out of the best Regiments of France and all taller than he. That this Exominant em.barkd along with these Soldiers in six hundred Bat.toes and that they all arriv'd (except some who were sick perhaps two hundred & were left at their upper Forts) at the French Fort Commanded by Monsr Con.treeur on the Ohio That about eight weeks ago he deserted from that Fort & believes Two hundred had Deserted before him. That the Soldiers after their

arrival were employed in digging mines in order to blow up the English on their approache to attack them and that they talked of making mines all about the Fort to a great distance. That the Ireach had heard the English were making great preparations against them and that thirty or forty vessells were arriv'd with forces from England. That there are number of Ireach Indians in the Camp with the Irench who speak Ireach and are extremely Attach'd to them That the Irench say they will by Force compel the English Indians to join with [p. 223] them that they offer the Lands about the Fort to the Canadeans and Soldiers and give Seed for their Encouragement to Settle there and that there are about forty Families which have accepted the Terms and are settling the Lands.

Charles $\frac{\text{his}}{\text{mark}}$ Courtenay

Sworne before me
at Philadelphia

Will. Allen

[p.224] Endorsed Copy of Charles Courtnay's (sic) Examination be-fore Chief Justice Allen dated Dec.r 28/1704 in Gov.r Shirley's Letter of Jan.y 24th. 1705

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[1745]

Sir,

I am and have been so much taken up with an Assembly, who seem determin'd to stand still & see their Country over-run by the French. That I have not been able to write to you upon sev. .eral Matters that I want to have your Sentiments upon, I have not now time to enter upon other Mat. .ters, and can only send you the incloſd Affida. .vit, as it contains Intelligence of Importance and is confirm'd by two other Deserters whose Examinations will be taken tomorrow, but I could not let this Post go without sending you this peice of intelligence & begging the favour of you to forward the incloſd to Sr Thomas Robinson, in which I have sent him one of those Examinations, and last night sent away a special Messenger to overtake some Ships bound to England, & now lying at the Mouth of our River, with the same Intelligence, so that I am in hopes they will receive this Account of the French Strength some time in February, & time enough to send proper Orders upon the Occasion; for certainly it will not be safe to Attempt to remove so strong a Body of french Troops, with the English Force destin'd for this Service.

My Assembly are still sitting, but I have not yet [turn] / prevail'd with them to give any thing upon the present Occasion and Really despair of doing it.

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(tho' my best Endeavours shall not be wanting) as they are entering into an ill timid Dispute about the force of Royal Instructions, & those given by the Proprietors.

You may depend on hearing more fully from me in a little time, & I need not now Assure you that I shall be glad of any Opportunity of convinc-ing you, &c.

Robt. H: Morris.

Philad.a Decr 29th 1754.

[The]

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The following Intelligence was mentioned to Gov. [1307]
.ernor Shirley by Mr Pownall.

The Indians of the six Nations, who had been at Canada to meet the french Governor at their re.
.turn in
brought the following Article of News.

That at or about their departure from thence, there came News to Montreal of the Arrival of six Men of War with Men & Ammunition, That five only arrivd safe at Quebec, one of 'em being lost about 24 Miles below the Town, & that the Governor who was then at Montreal, upon the News of this, went down immediately to Quebec.

The Authority of this News.

The Indians brought it to Coll Johnson;

Mr Pownall had it from Dr Shueburg who was there at that time.

Many french & Indians gone to the Ohio in September.

The Authority of this.

Some Memoranda. That Coll Johnson gave to Dr Shueburg to which Coll Johnson referrd Mr Pownall.

These Matters of Intelligence Mr Pownall sent from N York in Nov last to his Brother John Pownall.

These Indians brought at the same time a piece of News which we since know to be true, viz The Fire of Montreal.

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[page]

Endorsed Gov^r Morris's Letter to/ Gov^r Shirley dated Dec^r 29^th/ 1754.. and/ Intelligence of M^r Pownall/ 2/ in Gov^r Shirley's Letter of/ Jan^y 21^st 1755.

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[page]

Endorsed Gov^r Morris's Letter to/ Gov^r Shirley dated Dec^r 29^th/ 1754.. and/ Intelligence of M^r Pownall/ 2/ in Gov^r Shirley's Letter of/ Jan^y 21^st 1755.

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Extract of a Letter from Capt John Hamilton [1754]
dated Chignecto 2d Decr 1754. to Doctr Silvester
Gardiner in Boston

"De Loutre expects War in the Spring or
"Summer as he says They say he is gathering the
"Indians together_ I suppose if he expects a French
"War they will not begin Hostilities before_ I hear
"they expect a number of large & some Small Can.
"non_also two or three hundred Soldiers_ It is
"reported they also design to make very consider.
"able Outworks to their Forts_ I hear the French
"are very vext at the Forts up Kennebec River one
"of them told me it was only 37. or 40 Leagues
"from Quebec_ I fancy should there come a war
"they will have a Visit that way & some part of
"the ill treatment returnd they have shewn our
"Colonies_ The French lost a fine 74 Gun Ship in
"the Harbour of Quebec this last Fall by a Storm_
"They Report here that a Canada Mulatto named
"Pechart shew'd Govr Shirley the way to the River
"Chaudiere & that there is a number of Indians
"hunting after him to put him to death."

Endorsed Extract of a Letter from / Capt John Hamilton [p. 353]
to / Doctr Silvester Gardiner / dated Decr 2d 1754 / 3 / in Govr
Shirley's Letter of / Jany 24th 1755

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Halifax, Decemr 12. 1755. [A 350]

Sir,

I had the Honour to receive by Homer a Duplicate of your Excellencys letter of the 4th of November wch incloid an Extract of your letter to Sir Thomas Robinson; Colonel Monckton has doubtless before this fully explaind to you the nature of the Service he is going upon, and of consequence made it very manifest that a thousand Men is not a sufficient Reinforcement to the Regulars we can spare for that purpose

I am very happy in receiving so good a Sanction to my proposal to your Excellency as Sir Thomas Robinsons letter. I think what is projected is as nearly as possible the thing requird of us both.—

The incloid papers will I believe convince your Excellency of the great necessity of beginning as early in the Spring as the Weather will Admit without waiting to hear further from England as it appears therefrom that a delay may give the French an opportunity of making an Offensive War, and if they can shew any Strength in those parts the French Inhabitants will infallibly appear in Arms for them.

I cannot hear that they have any considerable

Naval Strength at Louisbourg at present, and if our work can be finish'd before their Ships arrive I believe the Station'd Ships of Carolina New York + Boston may be able to protect us till force is sent from England, as I shall the Moment any thing is done, send one of the Province Sloops Express

I am extremely glad to find by the Extract of your Excellencys Letter to Sir Thomas Robinson that you approve the Settling of Chignecto w^th People from New England, the Lands are very valuable there, and a great part fit for immediate use, and I shall be verey glad to dispose of parcels thereof to as many People from New England as your Excellency shall think it convenient to spare for that purpose

I must beg of you Sir, not to communicate the incloss'd papers to any Body but Colonel Monckton as the person I had them of may otherwise run great resque of being discover'd

I beg your Excellency will believe me to be with the most faithfull Respect

Sir/ your most Oblig'd &c (sic)

His Excellency Gov^r Shirley.

[A 256]

Endorsed Lieut Governor Lawrences/Letter to Governor Shirley/ dated Dec^r 12: 1754/4/ in Gov^r Shirley's Letter of/ Jan^y 24^th 1755

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[Num]

Williamsburg Virginia Feby 12th 1755

Right Honble

Inclosed You have Copy of my Letter of the 20th of last Month since that Sir John St Clair is re.turned from the Camp at Wills's Creek, with him Governor Sharpe, & every Thing there is in good Order, but the Situation of the Fort Sir John complains of. & thinks it would have been better about thirty Miles further, however as it is finished it will answer the collecting of our Forces, till the Reinforcement from Ireland arrives, which I earnestly wish for & daily expect. I have & shall do all in my Power to lay in what Provisions I possibly can purchase for the Use of the Expedition, & I hope some Measures will be concerted to prevent the Supplies to the French from our Colonies, as mentioned in my former Let.ter, Copy thereof You have herewith.

The Assembly of Pensylvania is adjourned without granting any Supplies, an unhappy Dif.ference between the Governor & them subsisted, the Governor it seems would not pass their Note for 20,000 £ being contrary to Instructions, its a Pity that should be the Case at this Time when Sup.plies are so much wanted, & indeed I fear the Colonies will not be perswaded to grant mutual Supplies, but by a British Act of Parliament laying

a general Tax on the Whole; at present without Supplies from England of Money or Credit, I dread we shall be straitned in conducting this neces-sary Expedition; If Money should be now sent, may it not be replaced from that general Tax? I received His Majestys Warrant for replaceing the former Ad-vance sent me from the Supplies of the two Shil-lings ℔ Hh. I sent for the Receiver General & the Council, he declared it was not in his Power to strike the Ballance of that Revenue at present, but in April he would be ready, & then be assured I shall give due Obedience to His Majestys Commands; inclosed I send you a Copy of the Minute of Coun-cil on that Affair, & I hope the Delay of two Months will not be charged to me, as I shall at all Times be ready in complying with such Orders as I may receive from Time to Time, that can possibly be put in Execution.

Inclosed I send You the Information of a Deserter from the French, giving Account of their Forces from Quebeck to the Fort built last Year on the Ohio, which is thought here to be very genuine & true; but they still expect great Reinforcements from France, however if the two Regiments & Ordnance Stores ar-rive soon, I am in very great Hopes we shall be able to do all that may be expected; & proper

COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, L

Dispositions are made for marching & quartering the Troops when they arrive._/ The French are extremely [illegible] earnest in collecting Numbers of Indians of differ. ent Tribes, even to the Westward of Mississippi. they threaten to attack our Fort at Wills's Creek, but I hope our People will be properly on their Guard, & remain on the Defensive till our Troops arrive_ Inclosed I send You the Draft of the Fort & Bar. racks, which is named Cumberland Fort_

Sir John St. Clair who is an indefatigable Gen. tleman in his Duty proposes the having a Num. ber of Scouts sent out here, the Reasons he assigns, & the Character he gives of those People are very strong, but I beg to be referred to his own Letter which he writes You by this Opportunity on that Subject

As I have Nothing further at present to trouble your Excellency with, but that I remain with great Deference & due Respects

Right Honble

Your most obedt hble Servt

Robt Dinwiddie

P.S. James Abercrombie Esqr is appointed by the Council Agent for this Dominion & I hope his Con. duct will meet with yr Approbation_

Sir Thomas Robinson

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[p.379]

Sir

I forgot to acquaint you that I wrote Mr Glen Governor of South Carolina the Necessity & Usefulness of supporting a good Understanding & Friendship with the different Tribes of Indians in our Interest, particularly the Catawbas & Cherokees; & the building a Fort in the Upper Cherokee Country. for which Service I am ordered from Home to advise with & assist him

He answered my Letter, & sent me a Calculation for building said Fort amounting to 6484 15 Sterling, & desired me to remit him 7000 £ in Bills of Exchange, out of the 10.000 £ Credit I have have to draw for. In the above Calculation, he charged the Expence of 300 Men to be employd in that Service. Mr John St Clair being here as Quarter Master General to the Expedition, I shewed him his Letter wch he said he did not know what he meant by employing 300 Men, as it was to be built among our friendly Indians, & he believed, by proper Oeconomy, it might be built for one Third of the Money

I called the Council to advise on this Affair, & they tho't his Demand was very extravagant, & unreasonable, as he must know the great Demand there was on me for Money for the Expedition; but that he may see my Readiness to

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obey Orders from Home, they advise me to send him one thousand Pounds Sterling which I did by Bill on Mr John Hanbury; & I think the Colo-ny of So Carolina should furnish the rest, as they have not contributed one Farthing for the Expedition.

Endorsed Virginia Feb.y 12th 1755 Lt Govr Dinwiddie [one] Rd March 23d.

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Maryland fs [f.201]

A Journal descriptive of some of the French Forts had from Thomas Forbes lately a private Soldier in the King of France's Service.

January 1755

About a Year & half ago I with 120 private Soldiers & our officers embarked in old France for Canada

Our Vessell was a Frigate of 40 Guns, & another Frigate of 30 Guns sailed at the same Time with a Company of Soldiers to releve the Garrison at the Mouth of the Mississippi

After a short Voyage we disembarked at Quebeck where we were permitted to stay three Weeks to refresh ourselves.

The regular Troops in that City did not exceed 300, but I was told there were many Par. ties & Detachments quartered up & down the Coun. try all round that Place—

Being joined by a Company of 50 Men from that Garrison we went in Batteaus to Montreal under the Command of Lieut Barqueville, & there we spent the last Winter.

At our Arrival there was a Company of 50 Men in the City where we were quartered, so that in all we made 220 exclusive of Officers

Very early in the Spring we were joined by near 400 more who were drafted out of the sev.eral Companies that Garrison'd the Forts & were posted on the Frontiers of Canada

Easter Tuesday we embarked to the Number of six or 700 in about 300 Batteaus & Canoes (not Barken) & took with us a large Quantity of Bar.rel'd Pork & Meal in Baggs; the Bags weighed sixty or 70 lb each, & I believe there might have been 1500 of them. how many of the Pork there were I never heard nor cou'd I guess, but I believe the Canoes that were not laden with Flour carried 5 or 6 Barrels at least each of them, & the Bat.teaus received 18 or 20_

We were three Weeks going from Montreal to Lake Ontario keeping the Shore close on board because of the rapidity of the Stream, & at Night we went ashore, excepting a few that were left with the Canoes that were fastened to Stakes or Trees on the Shore.

Then we had our Biscuit which was laid in for the Voyage delivered to us with 1 lb of Pork to each, & kindling large Fires we cooked our Pro.visions for next Day, & slept round the Fires, each of us being provided with a Blanket.

We kept along the South East Shore of

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Ontario (sic) Lake, & passed so near to the English Fort called Conquen (sic) or Oswego, that we cou'd talk to the Centinels.

[illegible] When we came to the Fort at the Falls of Niagara we landed all our Provisions in which Service the Garrison at the Fort assisted & carried them on Sleds that were there at the Fort to a little Log House (called le petit Fort de Niagara) three Leagues beyond Niagara Fort, where we put them aboard other Batteaus & Canoes that were there ready to receive them.

At our Arrival at Niagara there were at that Fort 25 private Men Comanded by Lieut de la Perrie, but Monsr Contrecoeur was also then in the Fort, & had the Chief Command, there was also a Serjeants Guard at the little Fort.

The Fort at Niagara is no more than an Eminence surrounded with Stockadoes or Palisades which stand about 14 Feet above the Ground very close together, & are united or fastened together by three pieces of long Scantling that is put transversly on the inside at the Distance of three Feet or so from each other: These Stockadoes enclose an Area near 300 Paces square, on which is built an House for the Commandant, Barracks for the Men & a Smith's Shop; it is not rendered defensible by any Out Work or

even a Ditch + there are not mounted in it more than four Swivel Guns.

As soon as we had put our Provisions on board at the little Fort that I mentioned we proceeded to Lake Erie with Capt Contrecure who had himself now taken the Comand of all the Troops in those Canoes: We kept along the Eastern Coast of this Lake to Fort Presquille which I apprehend is about 50 Leagues from Niagara, this Fort is situated on a little rising Ground at a very small Distance from the Water of Lake Erie it is rather larger than that at Niagara but has likewise no Bastions or Out Works of any sort; Tis a square Area in-closed with Logs about 12 Feet high, the Logs being Squared + laid on each other + not more than six-teen or eighteen Inches thick - Capt Darpentine (Aid) Com-manded in the Fort + his Garison was 30 private Men.

We were eight Days employd in unloading our Canoes here + carrying the Provisions to Fort Boeuff which is built about six Leagues from Fort Presquille at the Head of Buffalo River.

This Fort was composed of four Houses built by way of Bastions + the intermediate Space Stock-aded, Lieut St Blein was posted here with 20 Men; here we found three large Batteaus + between two or 300 Canoes which we freighted with Provisions + proceeded

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down the Buffaloe River which flows into the Ohio at about 20 Leagues (as I conceivd) distance from Fort au Boeuff, this River was small & at some Places very shallow, that we towed the Canoes sometimes [p. 273] wading, & some Times taking Ropes to the Shore a great Part of the Way.

When we came into the Ohio we had a fine deep Water & a Stream in our Favour so that we rowed down that River from the Mouth of the Buffaloe to Fu Luisne Fort on Monongehela which I take to be 70 Leagues distant, in four Days & half

At our Arrival at Fort Du Quesne we found the Garison busely employd in compleating that Fort & Stockadoing it round at some Distance for the Security of the Soldiers Barracks (against any Surprize) which are built between the Stockadoes & the Glacis of the Fort: Fort Du Quesne is built of square Logs transversly placed as is frequent in Mill Dams, & the Interstices filled up with Earth; the Length of these Logs is about sixteen Feet which is the thickness of the Rampart; there is a Parapet raised on the Rampart of Logs, & the length of the Courtains is about 30 Feet, & the Demigorge of the Bastions about Eighty: The Fort is surrounded on the two Sides that do not front the Water with a Ditch about 12 Feet wide & very deep, because there being

no covert Way the Musqueteers fire from thence having a Glacis before them_

When the News of Ensign Jumonville's Defeat reach us our (...) consisted of about 1400 Seven hundred of whom were ordered out under the Comand of Capt Mercier to attack Mr Washington, after our return from the Meadows a great Number of the Soldiers who had been labouring at the Fort all the Spring were sent off in Divisions to the several Forts between that & Canada; & some of those that came down last were sent away to build a Fort some where on the Head of the Ohio. so that in October the Garison at Du Quesne was reduced to 200 Men. who had Provisions enough at the Fort to last them two Years. notwithstanding a good deal of the Flour we brought down in the Spring proved to be damaged, & some of it spoiled by the Rains that fell at that Time.

In October last I had an Opportunity of relieving myself & returning, there were not then any Indians with the French but a considerable number were expected & said to be on their March thither_

[Am] Endorsed Information in regard to the / French Forts & Forces / in Lt. Gov. Dinwiddies Letter / of Feb.y 13th 1755.

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[A.276]

Virginia Williamsburg Jan.y 30th 1755

Right Honble

My last to You was the 16th Nov.r to which I desire to be referred – Our Forces still remain at Wills's Creek, & have been employd in building Barracks. Governor Sharpe has been there, & as he conceived a Hill near to the Fort built would command it, he thereupon has erected a small Platform, & intends to mount some Cannon on that Hill.

In the Month of Nov.r several Chiefs of our friendly Indians, went to our Camp, & after pretty many Ceremonies, they desired a Council to be held of our officers, when they entered into a Treaty of Friendship with us.

In the Month of December a number of Chiefs of other Nations came to the Camp; many of these had last Year joined the French, they acknowledged their Errors & were very desirous of entering into a Treaty of Friendship with us; assuring the Commanding Officer of their sincere Attachmt to the British Subjects; & that for the future they would remain in strict Friendship; I sent Presents to the Camp to be given to both these Parties of Indians.

I think it my Duty to acquaint You of

every Step done here in regard to the Expedition, & therefore I send You an exact Copy of both Treaties, You will please to give Allowance for the Style in treating with these Nations of Indians.

I also received a Letter from Capt. Luther. Stuyvesant, Commander of one of the Independent Com. panies, Copy thereof You have here enclosed; & as he mentions a Neutrality being entered into between our Commissioners at Albany, & the Caghnawaga Indians (the Chief Indian Nation belonging to the French) out of a lucrative View of conducting a Trade from Albany to Canada. This I conceived to be a monstrous inconsistent Neutrality & Trade, when the French are at open War with us, made me resolve to write to the Governor of New York, to make strict enquiry into the Conduct of the Albany Commissioners, & recom. mended a Treaty with the Six Nations at Onon. dago, & to engage the building some Forts in their Country for their Protection, & to engage them to take up the Hatchet against the French; I have not yet received an Answer from Mr. De Lancey.

I think it my Duty to acquaint you, that all the Provisions the French have for conducting this unjust [Illegible] Invasion on the Ohio, is, as I am credi. bly informed, by a Supply from New York &

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Philadelphia: they carry large Quantities of Flour, Bread, Pork, Beef &c to Lewisburg formerly called Cape Breton where they sell it for Rum, Molasses, & Sugar, the Produce of their Islands — These Provisions are conveyd from Lewisburg to Quebeck, for the Support of their Forces, & sent to their different Forts on the Ohio — This is a very pernicious Trade, as they cou'd not conduct their unjust Invasions on His Majesty's Lands, without this Supply; at same Time greatly detrimental to the British Sugar Colonies, by a clandestine Importation of large Quantities of Rum, Sugar, Molasses &c to the dif. -ferent Provinces on this Continent.

I am therefore humbly of Opinion that the Produce of our Colonies, viz. Flour, Bread, Pease, Pork & Beef, should be enumerated & restrained from being Shipt from the Place of their Produce, to any Place but the British Sugar Colonies, or any other British Colony, giving Security on the Shipping them off, to return a Certificate of their being landed in a British Colony, in the same man. -ner as Rice from South Carolina; this done, I am convinced the French could not supply their Forces with Provisions.

The feeding our Enemies may in some Cases be deemed a Christian Duty; but surely these

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Enemies that commit the most barbarous Cruelties & unjust Actions, can have no Pretensions to be fed, to support them in their horrid Murders & Barbarities. I shall write the Lords of Trade on this Subject, & shall be mighty well pleased if something is done to prevent this injurious Trade which I think no good Subject would enter on; but the Lucrative dastardly Views of some Traders have no Restraint, but what must be done by the Legislature.

Your several Letters of the 26th Octr 4th of Novr &c. were delivered me by Sr John St Clair; who arrived here the 10th of this Month, with Lieut Col. Ellison & Mercer & two Adjutants appointed for the two Regiments to be raised in New England. I went the 12th with Sr John to Hampton to provide Necessaries for the Sick, returned hither the 13th. I supplied the Lieut Colonels with Horses & Guide, they left this the 15th & Sr John left this the 16th for Willis Creek to provide Barracks for the Regiments expected from Ireland.

His Majestys Commands sent me in your Letter, shall meet with all due obedience as far as itis in my Power, & His Majestys great Goodness & Concern for His Subjects on this Continent ought to rouse an Emulation & Spirit in the different Colonies; but

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I am sorry I have reason to complain of their Backwardness & Inactivity. The Assembly of this Colony have lately voted 20,000, but I do not hear that the other Colonies have behaved, or distin-guish'd themselves as grateful Subjects but I hope this last Instance of His Majesty's Gracious [illegible] Good-ness in ordering two Regiments, & a large Supply of Ordnance Stores will have a proper Effect in rousing them from their lethargick Supineness, to grant a mutual Supply against the Common Enemy.

I wish I had been acquainted with His Majesty's generous Intentions in sending so con-siderable a Reinforcement; that a proper Supply of Provisions for these now here, & those expected from Ireland, might be provided; but before I had the Honour of receiving Your Letter, the killing Time for Beef was over, but I hope they will bring some Months Supplies from Ireland.

I have sent two Commissaries to our fron-tier Counties to purchase all the Hogs they can, & have sent Salt to Wills's Creek to cure them, & some Beeves that were at & near the Camp. I have wrote to the Governor of Pensylvania to engage Six hundred thousand Pounds of Flour, to be delivered at our Magazine at Wills's Creek,

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& I have wrote to the Governor of New England to send a Vessell with a Quantity of dried Cod Fish — These Supplies if duely sent, with what I have or may purchase, I am in hopes will be sufficient till we can drive some Beeves to them, which will be the End of April, or Beginning of May.

I have enlisted here 800, Men, & shall endeavour to augment their Number to 1000; but what Numbers we may have from our neighbouring Colonies are very uncertain; as I do not hear any of their Assemblies (tho' lately met) have granted any Supplies; but I live in hopes that they will dutifully comply with His Majesty's Orders; & I shall be very glad if the whole Forces were collected in a Body early in March, being much in Hopes, if they were once over the Alleganey Mountains, the Dress of our Regulars, with the Number of our Forces, will engage many of the Indians to join us, & many of the French to desert.

The last Accounts from the Ohio say, the French have been reinforced with 1100 White & some Indians from Canada, & that their whole Number was about 1600; but am apt to think they must be in much want of Provisions unless supplied from our own Colonies as mentioned before.

Sir John St. Clair, who I think is a worthy Gentleman, a good Officer indifatigable in his Business; told me that many Horses will be wanted for the Carriage of Ordnance Stores &c upon his Desire I have engaged & bought 120. and shall agreeable to his Desire make the Number 250 as soon as I can have an Opportunity of purchasing them –

And I humbly desire you will please let His Majesty know that I will do every Thing in [4 mo] my Power with proper Deligence & Spirit for the Service of the Expedition –

With great Deference & sincere Respects I remain

Right Honble

Your much obliged and
most obedt. hble Servt.

(sic)

S. Thomas Robinson

Copy

Endorsed Virginia Jan.y 20th. 1755/ Copy of Lt. Govr Dinwiddie's/ Letter to Sir T. Robinson./ in Lt. Govr Dinwiddie's Letter/ of Feb.y 12th. 1755.

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Virginia

At a Council held Febr^{y} 4th 1755.

Present

The Governor

John Blair — Philip Grymes

William Nelson — Richard Corbin

Thomas Nelson — Philip Ludwell Esq^{rs}

M^{r} Commissary.

The Governor laid before the Board his Majes.^{ts} Warrant dated the 3^{d} of July, authorizing and commanding him to issue his Warrant from Time to Time for paying over the Balance of the Money in the Receivers Hands of the Duty of 2^{s} per Hh^{d} upon Tobacco, and such other Sums as shall here. after appear to be the Balance in his Hands then. of as far as the same will go to William Pitt Esq^{r} Paymaster General of the King's Forces, or to the Paymaster General for the Time being, to re. imburse the Twenty Thousand Pounds advanced by his Majesty for the publick Service.

Upon reading which, the Receiver General acquainting the Board that it was impossible for him before April to ascertain the Balance in his Hands of the Revenue of 2^{s} per Hh^{d} as his Honour had orderd many Articles about Arms, Ammunition and other Necessaries from England which are

daily expected, and chargeable on that Revenue, besides several Sums payable here for Exigences of the Government by his Orders, which must greatly reduce the Balance: It was the Advice of the Board that his Honour would suspend issuing his Warrant until April, when the Receiver's Accounts are generally passed.

Copy Teste

N. Walthoe Bl Con.

[f 296] Endorsed Minute of Council / Lt. Gov. Dinwiddie's /
Letter of Febr 12th 1755.

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Camp Mount Pleasant 27th Dec. 1755 [1077] ? (or 6)

Sir

I had proposed myself the Pleasure of wait-
-ing of your Honour at Williamsburg before this
(sic)
Time, but found it absolutely necessary to remain
here to keep our People together & employ'd in mak-
-ing the Fort & Barracks, which has taken more
Labour & Time than I could have imagined, for
such rough Work, but which there was a Neces-
-sity for the Soldiers performing, since the Commissar-
-ies thro' their ordinary bad Management, & worse
Pay, could procure us so little Assistance. Our
Men obliged to carry most of the Loggs for the
Barracks, & such like Work, have tore their Cloaths
to pieces, & the new Clothings not yet arrivd, but
the worst Effect of this tedious Work is, neglect-
-ing, almost entirely their Military Exercises, which
with above Thirty Recruits I've got since I ar-
-rived for the N York Companies, & discharging sev-
-eral Men too old for this Service, makes them
almost unfit at present to appear under Arms.
this we hope soon to remedy as the Works mostly
all over, & the Clothing on the Road. We are now
fully sensible of the great Service you have done
these Colonies, by keeping the Independent Companies
on this Frontier; which has made all the Out-Settlers

remain on their Plantations, many of whom had moved off, & many more preparing to do the same

[p.97r]

upon the Desertion of the Virginians from this; be-sides what's of more Consequence still, You have by that means kept up an Interest amongst the Ohio, Delawar, & Shano Indians; all of whom would other-ways have entirely joined the French — Upon the re-turn of the Shawnes, & some of the Ohio Six Nation Indians, from the Treaty here, all the seven Nations of the Northward Indians, who joined the French last Summer, resolved to send some of each Nation to desire Us to forget what's past, & trust to their maintaining Peace with us for the Future; Some of them I'm sure will not keep their Words, Others I think will, if we are strong enough to keep the Field — All Indian Treaties are in Vain without the Concurrence of the Council of the Six Nations at Onondago, & our Interest there is upon a very bad Footing — The New York Commissioners at Albany have concluded a sort of Neutrality with the Caghnawagas, the chief Indian Nation in Canada, who carries on the Albany Trade with Canada, pro-fitable to them, but very destructive to the Eng-lish Trade, & of Course Interest, with the Indians; Besides, these French Indians by that Means, & In-tercourse with our Indians, keep up the French Interest

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amongst them & by a Message brought them from the Governor of Canada, a greater Number are now actually gone to Canada to a Treaty, than what came to Albany last Sumer to treat with our Com-missioners from the seven Provinces who sent them. Without a new Treaty with the Six Nations at Al-bany, or rather at / Onondago, & a Body of Men ready [p 394] to go along with them to build some little Forts especially at Irondiquat upon Lake Ontario 'twill be impossible to bring them into the War, or any of their Allies, to be depended on: This you'll easily observe must be done by other Commissioners than Albanians, whose Views are confined to Peace in their own Bounds, & Trade with the French by their Indians.

These Provinces are extremely obliged to the indefatigable Care, Diligence & Oeconomy of Col° Innes, which your Honour, who have had exact Accounts of all his Proceedings, must be very sensible of, & 'twould give me particularly, & indeed every one here, the greatest Pleasure to hear that your Legislature or Committee had thanked, & rewarded him, according to his Merit. I shall be obliged to make a short Trip as far as Philadelphia next Week, upon some private Business & to recruit some Men, so as to be able to discharge a few more of our old; & to draw Bills for the Company's Money. I write my Wife to

meet me there, & shall stay a Week or two, & go by Annapolis, where, or at Philadelphia, I should be very proud to receive your Honour's Commands, or if you have any for New York, I could easily go there from Philadelphia, as Capt. Clarke arrived last Night & begs his Compliments to you, & could I do any Service to your Satisfaction 'twould give the greatest Pleasure to —

Your Honours

most obedt & most

humble Servant

[The covering letter
refers to this as being
from Capt Rutherford's
Grandchildren's]
Copy

(Dupe)

[Endorsed] Endorsed Copy of a Letter from an/ Officer at Willis
Creek/ in Lt Gr Dinwiddies Letter/ of Jan.y 20th 1755

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[1761]

An Indian Treaty.

By Lob James Innes Commander in Chief of the Ohio Expedition having only his Majesty's three independent Companies at the Camp Mount Pleasant, Wills Creek.

Friday the 18th of October, Nine Indian Warriors and a Lad of the Six Nations arrived in the Camp; I exa.mined them and found they were so far on their Way to War against the Catabas; I prevail.ed upon them to pass a few Days with me, and acquainting them that a Number of their Na.tions Chief Warriors, King Vr were on their Way, and coming in a few Days to their Brothers here in the Camp, I gave them a present, to each a Match Coat and some other Goods, and they accordingly promised to wait the coming of their Brethren.

The 21st of October, the Indians arrived at the Camp Viz. Scaruncata } Warriors and Chief of the Six Nations with Moses ___ } many others, Women and Children.

Lapathia the Shawnah King }
Jescoma a Delawar _____ } And others of their Nations.

I invited them to my Tent in Form, where I entertained them according to Custom and receiv.ed them in Presence of the following Officers, Viz.t Captains John Rutherford and James Mackay

Lieut[t] Oglevey & Calhoune of Cap[t] Rutherfords Comp[y]
Lieut[t] Spearing, Sourmaen, & Miller of Cap[t] Clarkes Comp[y]
Lieut[s] Howarth & Gray
Ensign Lloyd . . . . } of Cap[t] M[c] Kays Company.

M[r] Andrew Montour Interpreter
Cap[t] William Trent Assistant

and made them the following Speeches

Brothers.

With this String of Wampum I wipe away the Tears from your Eyes that you may see clear-ly the Sun rising to its Setting

I give you this String of Wampum

Brothers,

We clear your Hearts and open your Minds and Ears that you may speak freely what you have to say to us and hear what we your Brothers shall say to you.

Gave another String of Wampum.

Brothers

We condole you on the great Loss you have suffered by the Death of our Brother the Half King, who was the Head and Speaker of the young Men; We are sensible as often as you see his Grave it must renew your Grief, and put the great Loss you have sustained by his Death fresh into your Minds, to prevent which we cover his Grave

for ever from your Sight by this Present of Goods. of which they accepted—

[A 300] /Monacatootha a Cheif Warrior, and Speak-er of the Six Nations made me a short and friend-ly Speech, and gave me a String of Wampum

After this was ended I recommended to Mona-catootha to speak to the nine Warriors that came in order to War against the Catabaes. We crossed the River, and placed ourselves on the Ground round a smoky Fire, the Incampment of the nine Warri-ors, to whom Monacatootha in Behalf of the Eng-lish, the Six Nations and their Allies, made them the following Speech:

Brothers,

Both us and our Women take you in our Arms, and stop you from going to War against the Catabas; Look at your People at Home, consider the Danger that threatens them from the French. If you must go to War they are the people you should go against, they who have taken your Lands from you, and drove you off your Hunting Grounds. It is our Interest to make Peace with the Catabas, and join against the common Enemy the French. Capt. Treat gave two French Scalps, which were given to him and Mr. Conoghan as a Present from a party of the Six

Nations, who had lately struck the French, and af-
-ter they were dressed and painted, were delivered
to the Warriors by Monacatootha with the follow-
-ing Speech

Brothers,

Take these Scalps, carry them home, and
shew what we have done, tell them we have
struck the French, and if they want to go to
War, they are the people they must strike.

The Warriors after some Deliberation re-
-turned Thanks and said they would return
Home, putting the Scalps upon a Long small Stick
as a Banner.

The Council called }
the Conference renewed }

Thursday 31st October Capt James McKay hav-
-ing Leave of Absence to go to South Carolina on
his private Affairs, having so good an Opportuni-
-ty to send a Message to the Catawba Nation from
our present Council. Scarrucata the Cheif and
a great Warrior delivered Capt Mc Kay two Strings
of Wampum, the one all white, the other white
and black, which all the Warriors desired him
to deliver to the Kings and Warriors of the Catawba
Nations, with the following Speech

We the Warriors of the Six Nations invite

you to come to Winchester when the Turkeys Gob-
-bells in March, or the Beginning of April, when
we will meet you and shake Hands. Our Kings
have/ nothing to do with making Peace. We the [p. 203]
Warriors are the People who must make Peace, and
if you come at that Time you may depend up-
-on our making Peace, which will be firm and
lasting. Let your Kings come along with you,
and listen to what we the Warriors agree upon.
If you should neglect coming, we shall think
your Hearts are not good towards us, and the
War must go on.

But to convince you that we speak with
an open Heart we have requested our Brother
the Governor of Virginia to assist in making
the Peace lasting and firm between us, you and
your Allies

Gave two Strings of Wampum.-

Friday 1st November. The Great Council being met,
and the Kings and cheif Warriors ranged up-
-on one Side of a very long Fire, with the Of-
-ficers and Interpreter who were ranged on the
other side of the same Fire, with a large Present
of sundry Goods, Powder, Lead &c all piled up-
-on a large Tree fell on Purpose, one Hundred
feet long and upwards, close by, in full View

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of both Companies, and on our right, I made them the following Speech which was rehearsed (sic) to them by the Interpreter;

Sachems & Warriors of the Six united Na.:tions, Shawnese, Delawars, Wayondots, and Twightwees, our Friends and Brethren,

I now in the Name of his Majesty King George the second, King of Great Britain France and Ireland, and of all the people of the different Provinces of Vir.-ginia, Maryland, Pensilvania, New York, New England, New Jersey, North & South Carolina, Georgia and Nova Scotia, recommend the same strict Friendship amongst you our Brothers, our Friends and Allies, as there is amongst us the Inhabitants of the above Provinces, and amongst us and you; that we may live like Children, Brethren and Sisters of one Family, as long as the Sun Moon and Stars give Light, as long as the Waters run, and Trees grow upon the Earth, under one Father the King of Great Britain, who out of good Will to his Children sent them this small Present, which he desires you to accept pointing to the Present

Brethren,

It is almost twelve Months since I took you by the Hands to bring you here, which the French prevented by coming with a large Army,

driving you from your Towns, taking Possession of your Lands, killing our People, and taking their Goods, by which means you are scattered over the Face of the Earth. I am glad of having an Opportunity of Meeting so many of you together. You know when the French were coming down they made a Speech to all / the Indians, told them to [p.200] sit still and look on, for they were Men; That they would take the English by the Arm and throw them over the Hills; We now desire you to send for your People, gather them together on this Side of the Mountains; loall all your Warriors home, if there are any out against their Enemies; Let your Warriors lye in their Beds in peace while we and the French fight it out. to confirm what I have said I give this String of Wampum.

Brethren,

I have served the former and present Kings of England from the Time I was fifteen years of Age till now. I have been an Eye Witness of the Treachery of the French, their Incroachments, and invading the properties of all sorts of People wheresoever they border upon and generally in Time of Peace, as is the case at present, which they dare not attempt in Time of War. Some years ago we sent an Army and Fleet to take Canada; When

they found they were likely to loose it, they cried for Peace, which we granted, upon Condition that they should not disturb the Six Nations, nor any of the Indians in our Alliance. In some little Time they broke their Faith So often this we sent another Fleet and took their Castle, and strong Town of Cape Breton. They cried for Peace, and we gave them their strong Castle and Town again, upon the same Condition as we made peace with them before. They broke their Faith again, and indeed my Brothers, they have not only broke their Faith with you and us, but with all people, and so often that they have no more left to break. They now continue disturbing us and our Friends the Six Nations and their Allies, persuading our friendly Indians to fight one against another in hopes in Time that one party would conquer the other, so that they would be able to cut off the Survivors, and have the whole Country to themselves.

I need not repeat the Injuries they have done this last Winter and Summer, it is yet fresh in your and our Minds; the Blood is yet smoking, we smell it strong, the Blood that they have spilt of every one of our Nations. To confirm what I have said, I give this String of Wampum.

[Brothers]

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Brothers

I once more tell you sit still, eat, drink and be merry with us in our Country; We will drive the French not only out of the Ohio, but off of all the Lands which they have unjustly pretended a Right to by dropping Peices of Lead and Copper in the Rivers, and nailing them on the Trees. If they won't be quiet when we have [p.306] drove them back to their Country, but con-tinue to disturb us and our Friends, we will drive them over the big Water, and if any Trouble lies in driving of them, will take them by the Feet and throw them over the great Waters to the Place they first came from. In Confirmation of what I have said, that it may have its full Force upon your Minds I present you with this String of Wampum.

November 2d In the Afternoon the Interpreter ac-quainted me that the Council of the Indians Warriors and Chiefs wanted to deliver me their Speech in Return to mine of Yesterday. I waited upon them at the former Place, where they made me a polite Speech, with Thanks for the Speech I had made to them yesterday, and that they would treasure it up in their Minds, and declare it to their Posterity, and returned me a String

of black and white Wampum.

In the Evening Scaruncata and the other Warriors made us three Speeches, and de-livered three Strings of black and white Wam-pum, desiring us to hold fast the Chain of Friendship, that we may be able to bring back those who have been so easily decoyed and de-ceived by the French to leave your Friendship for theirs; but by holding fast that Chain we shall all strike together. The young Shanoe King (sic) told me he would speak to me Tomorrow. After which the great Men, Kings and Warriors gave me to understand that they intended a War Dance for the young Men, and to be merry with a Song. I accordingly ordered them Plenty as I thought, but one of the Queens and a Lady of her Attendance having seen the whole Store as above exhausted, passed the Centrys, attacked me in my Tent, and would not retire untill I promised to order them a fresh supply, which I did, and they continued with loud Songs untill the Morning, all in great Harmony.

November 3d. In the Afternoon the Shanoe King made a Speech in Substance much to the same purpose of what King Scaruncata said yesterday, add-ing that he thank'd us for having remembered their Wives and Children in giving them a present.

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That they would acquaint all their Friends and Allies towards the Sun setting of their good Treat-ment, and of the Lies told them by the French and their Indians; that they would be killed and made Prisoners if ever they went amongst their Brothers the English, and delivered me two Strings/ of white Wampum in Behalf of their great [p. 306] Nation and the Delawares. I took off my Medall and put the same about the young King's Neck, at which he seemed much pleased, and returned Thanks.

The Speeches being made, the Business set-tled, and the Present delivered they expected to hear our great Guns speak. Accordingly I gratified them with a Salute to his Majesty's Health, at which they were greatly pleased, but still want-ing to be satisfied whether our Guns could hit to a Point, & put a Shot thro' a Tree, I likewise satisfied them, and ordered a Gun to be spotted and levelled upon a Tree upwards of three feet over at some Distance off, which being fired off, put the Shot thro the Center of the Tree, and a great Way thro' the Woods, which put the Indians upon hunting for the Shot, which they found a great Way off buried in a rising Ground; by which they were convinced our Guns

were able to batter down the French Fort, and they rejoyced greatly, which at Night occasiond another War Dance, and a loud Song, which made all the adjacent Hills rebound.

Thus ended all the public Councils and Speeches —

James Innes —

[illegible] Endorsed A Treaty with the Indians at / Camp Mount Pleasant / 10th. 1st. 1754 — Copy / in Lt. Gr. Dinwiddie's Letter / of Jan.y 20th. 1755

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By Lob James Innes Camp Mount Pleasant [1509]
Wills Creek Tuesday November 5th 1754

In the Morning we had a private Council with Monocatoocha and the cheif Warriors of the Six Nations, all whom we knew to have a true Heart to us. Capt Rutherford, Mr J. at the Interpreter and myself only present with the Cheifs above; The Cheif Warrior took out three Strings of Wampum, a large French white Belt of Wampum; describing their four Sorts, three of which only compleated; a black Belt of Wampum with the Hatchet given them by the Governor of Virginia. Upon the Strings he made the following Speech.

Brothers. There will now pass some sharp Words amongst us; as we are all Warriors, we shall talk like Men that are drunk, that speaks their Minds.

Brothers. We expected you would have told us more of your Minds, but as you have told us you were done, and what was spoke in public, was only to prevent some of our People from knowing what we were about, as you suspect they will go to the French and tell what they hear; We now open our Minds to you, and desire that you will not be foolhardy and depend too much upon your Strength

as bob Washington did, but that you will fin-
-ish your Fort, make it strong, and build another
on the other Side of the River, and if any In-
-dians from the French pretending to come to
Council, if you don't know them, don't admit
more than two into your Camp. Least the French
shou'd make Use of that Stratagem to cut you
off, while they attack you without, those that
you have received as your Friends may fall up-
-on you in your Camp or Fort._ Gave a String
of black & white Wampum.

Brothers_ Don't delay, Send for your people
that are coming; Hasten them that you may be
strong. The French are an enterprising People,
they will travel Night & Day to get an Advan-
-tage over you.

Brothers_ We are all Soldiers and Warriors,
Some sharp Words will now pass between us; we shall
talk like drunken Men. The French have told us
that the King of England and the French King
had made an Agreement to cut us off, and that
the French were to begin first, but if we would
hearken to them, they would not hurt us, but
might live among them; This Speech of the French
is the Reason we are so much divided at this
Time, and the Reason why several of our Allies

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keep off and don't join us. When we were com-
-ing down, the French told us the English would
put us to Death, but from our long Experience of
the English faith, we told them if it was so, we
could only die once, we could not live for ever. [p.90]
and were determin'd to trust to the Promisses of
our Brothers, which they never had yet forfeited;
But the other Nations who were not so well ac-
-quainted with you, could not be prevailed up-
-on to think as we did.

Now Brothers you have given us some
Reason to suspect you; For Colo Washington whom
we convoyed to the French Fort, left us there, came
through the Woods, and never thought it worth
his while to come to Logs Town, or near us and
give us any Account of the Speeches that pass-
-ed between him and the French at the Fort
which he promised to do. Now Brothers, you are
Strangers to us, and none of you having heard
our Accounts of what have passed, you shall
hear all that we know, and what we tell
you is Truth. We were all with Capt. Trents
people when the French came down the Ohio,
and the Half King told the French they had
no Business there on their Hunting Grounds, push-
-ing the French Officer with his Hand, telling

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them he would not allow his Brothers the English to be routed from the Land, which the Half King by the Directions of the Six Nations had allowed them to build and fortify; Upon which ensued a Scuffle, and had there been any proper Person with a small Body to have encouraged the Indians, they would not have left one Frenchman alive upon the Spot. Our Brother the Governor of Virginia having taken us by the Hand at a Treaty in Winchester where Lord Fairfax was Chief, told us we were to meet our Brother the Governor of Virginia and our Brothers the Catabas on the twentieth of May next to make a firm and last-ing Peace with the Catabas and their Allies. In the Spring Lord Washington being up at the large Meadows, sent a Message to the Half King and us to hasten and come to Winchester to meet our Brother Governor Dinwiddie. Accordingly in some little Time after, he set off. we and several young Men along with us. we was so narrowly watched by the French, that immediately upon our setting off with our Wives and Children being able only to travel slow, the French sent off that Party with La Force to bring us back or to put us to Death + they travelling faster than we could, the French got before us, and when

they went off the Road to incamp we tracked them, when we came up to that place, and sent to tell Bob Washington where they were; So they and our Guide travelling all night and coming close to the place where the French were incamped, we directed Bob Washington with his Men to go up the Hill straight to the French where they were, not above fifty yards off when they must come in Sight of the French Camp below them: The Half King with his Warriors went to the left to intercept them if they shou'd go that Way, and Monacatootha [p.491] with another young Warrior | Cherokee Jack went to the Right, and left Bob Washington: When they came near the Top of the Hill, Bob Washington be-gun himself and fired and then his people, which the French returned, two or three Fires of as many Peices as would go off, being rainy Weather, and then run off, one of Bob Washington's people be-ing more forward than the rest and before the Company, they unluckily shot their own Man, and wounded a Frenchman in the Cheek; So the French having taken to their Heels and run-ning, happening to run the Way the Half King was with his Warriors, eight of them met with their Destiny by the Indian Tomahawks, upon which the others remaining Survivors turned short and

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ran the other Way where Monacatootha was, and upon his calling to them, they observed they were surrounded, and Monacatootha knowing La Force, he came up and surrendered himself with the others to Monacatootha who carried them to Bob Washington. Immediately the Half King came up, and told the French, now I will let you see that the Six Nations can kill as well as the French, which you said we knew nothing of, and as you came after me to take my Life and my Childrens I now will let you see how I used to do with some of your People before in time of old, and that I am not afraid, so offering with his Tomayhauk to La Force, La Force got behind Bob Washington who interposed, otherwise we do believe they would have been all put to Death. One of the French Company having some Way got off throug the Bushes went back for the French Fort, but in his Way was met with some of our Indians; They found he spoke English and therefore persuaded him to return to his Brethren the English, which he refused several Times, upon which they killed and scalped him and brought the Account thereof to the Half King and us, after which we proceeded to the Meadows, and the Prisoners sent down to Williamsburgh.

After this Bob Washington never consulted

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with us nor yet to take our Advice, as we knew the French were strong, and now it was dangerous Times we wanted a Place of Security or Fort for our Wives and Children that they might not be left and exposed, and have only the Woods to run to, which was no Satisfaction to us at all, and this prevented our coming to Winchester to see our Brother the Governor.

Then happened the Battle at the Meadows, before which we gave Lord Washington an Account how strong the French were, and when they were just at hand, would not believe us; So when we saw and heard them fire at one another we thought they were in earnest; but what afterwards past in Council between him and the French we never could yet understand; Had it been us, we must have been all killed or taken Prisoners [illegible] without we had run away, for we never council in Time of War. Then Lord Washington carrying all his People down to the great Towns and leaving all this thin settled Country to be protected by a few Strangers, and never in all this Time to return back or come with other Men, as there are Men enough in all this great Province; All which gives us more Reason to suspect that what the French told us had some

[illegible] FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION [illegible] LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Foundation, and we have been easily kept from coming all this Time, from seeing our Brothers. only as we have struck the French, we cannot expect but that they will strike us when they can

Gave a String of black & white Wampum.

When these Speeches were ended, Monacatootha the cheif Speaker begun and told us all the Speeches the French made when they delivered them the Belt, but being last year related, I shall only now relate the substantial Part.

The French begun and told us they were to build these four Forts, the second of which was then abuilding, and though some of us had taken them by the Hand to bring them along, they might pull off the Arm but could not bring along the Body, being so big and strong. And if they had a Mind to lye still, and be fed, their Fathers could step over their Children and not hurt them, and if any of their Brothers the English stand in their Way, they would throw them over the Mountains but if our Children should be Fools enough to stand with the English, we shall fall and smother you and your Brothers together. You say you have no Room, your Fathers on one side, and your Brothers on the other have wedged you up like a Log, that you cannot turn. Children be advised by

your Fathers, lye still, and when we find you have not room enough, your Father will lift his Head and look over the Mountains and give his Children Room enough, Lands and Houses ready prepared both for your Fathers and their Children. You see we come like the Pidgeons, swift, and in great Numbers. your Brothers come like the Muskitoes, with a great Noise, and one cold Day destroys them all; therefore Chil. dren trust to your Father and Live. After which he turned to the black Belt of Wampum sent them by Governor Dinwiddie with the War Hatchet, and repeated all that was said upon the same which was delivered to us by Capt Trent, and our An. swer thereto sent by him to our Brother Gov. ernor Dinwiddie. We acquainted the Six Nations with all that passed, but the Belt we did not send, which you see now, fearing that our Bro. thers had no mind to strike the French themselves, but only to bring on a War upon the Six Na. tions, but now Brothers we shall take your Advice, with which ended the private Council.—

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/In the Evening I return'd my Answer, which is as follows;

Brothers— We thank you for your good Advice; We shall always take care not to suffer the French or Indians to surprise us; We shall always be

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ready to take the Advice of our Brothers, and go hand in hand with them, to convince you of which, I desire you may send me some of your young Men to stay here with me, to act as Scouts and by whose Information I shall be governed in Regard to any Indians that come here under a pretence of trading or treating, but if you can leave two or three here with us, you will much oblige us as we shall not know whether they be Friends or Enemies, if any Indians should come to the Camp.- Bob Washington's Conduct is what we greatly blame, in not conserting Matters properly, and taking your Advice, which we are confident would have prevented the Misfortune that afterwards befel him.

Brothers - It is ours as well as your Interest to hurry the Troops that are coming to join us, which you may depend upon my doing, and being upon my Guard against any Surprise from the Enemy, and upon the Arrival of the next Troops they will begin to fortify on the other Side.

Brothers - You tell us the French told you, that the English and French made an Agreement to cut you off; you may be convinced from your own Knowledge that they are Lyars, and they only tell those Stories to keep you divided that

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you may not join us in a body against them. Be strong my Friends, and tell us what Methods to take to convince your Allies, and we shall be ready to do it, because you may depend upon it, that we will never make peace while there is one Frenchman upon your Lands, and have obliged them to do Justice to all the Indian Nations in ours and your Alliance.

Bob Washington went to the French Fort at the Request of the Six Nations, charged with orders to summon the French off the Lands of the Six Nations our Allies, and to go Home peace-ably to their own Country, else we should join our Friends the Six Nations and their Allies, and cut them all off.

Bob Washington behaved ill in not ac-quainting you with his Message. This is the real Substance of his Message. Their Answer to him was, the Lands belonged to the King of France, and they had taken Possession of them for him, and were not obliged to ask Leave of the English or the Six Nations; Upon which a Number of Men were raised, Bob Washington with them un-[page] der his Command before the rest came up to join him, being a young Man, and neglecting your good Advice was the Cause of his Misfortune,

and which obliged him to agree with the French to deliver up La Force and the rest of the French Prisoners which were taken by the Indians, upon Condition that he should march back to Virginia, and they to their Fort, but he not having any Right to agree to deliver them up, without the Consent of the Indians whose Prisoners they were, is the Reason that they are not delivered up as yet. Brothers — What the French have told you upon their large Belt of white Wampum is all of-peice with their other Vanitys. But we are sorry our Brothers the English would not be more upon their Guard and have stop'd the building of their Forts at first which would have prevented all this Trouble both to you and us; But our Brothers being too confident in the great Numbers of peo-ple settled in our different Provinces, thought the French would not have had the Impudence to behave in this Manner, by which they have had all this Advantage; but be assured Brothers, we will come upon the French like pidgeons for Swiftness and Numbers and like Muskitoe Hawks to eat them all up as we move, Even if they should bring their whole Streagth from Canada, if we have but our Brothers Help, the Six Na-tions and their Allies For my Part Brothers, you

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know they have no hunting Grounds in Canada and a poor Country, so I am apt to think they have a real Design to sit down here and Leave that Country entirely, and deprive you and us of all this fine Land and great Country, that is infinitely better than all Canada, and all their old France together. So now is the time to strip them of both Canada and all the other Lands they pretend a Right to, which will give you and your Posterity Room to Hunt for Ages to come, Plenty and Peace for ever.

Sachems & Warriors,

Brothers — We desire that this Belt of black Wampum with the Hatchet be sent immediately to the Six Nations who are desired to forward to all the Nations in Alliance with us and them and let them know that we have the Hatchet in our Hands ready to assist them against the French, who have most unjustly taken possession of their Lands, and drove them off those Lands they have unjustly pretended a Right to, and we desire the Six Nations will open their Hearts & Minds and let us know what they intend to do, as we have no Time to Loose —

James Innes.

[Endorsed]

[p 396]

Endorsed A Treaty with the Indians at/ Camp
Mount Pleasant/ Nov.r 5th 1754/ Lo. p y/ in Dr. Gr. Dinwiddie's
Letter of/ Jan.y 30th 1755

[p. 291]

By Col James Innes, in Governor Sharpe's Absence Commander of the Forces at Wills Creek

Tuesday December 17th 1754. after Dinner arrived at our advanced Guard fourteen Indians whom I admitted, and brought them into a House in the Barracks, where they gave me a String of black and white Wampum telling us they were come to see their Brothers and to shake Hands, and that they had been fourteen Days from the French Fort Du Quesne – Council ended this Day. I entertained them, provided a House, Fire &c to warm them

Wednesday the 18th Having last Night sent for Mr Frazer an Indian Trader to speak with the Indians (the Indians were greatly impatient of being heard) upon Mr Frasiers coming I called a Council and presented them with two Strings of black and white Wampum and one String all white, telling them I was glad to see them and to receive their Visit; that we had at no Time any ill will or bad Mind to our Brethers the Indians: We were well assured the French had told them many Lies of us, and made them strike their Brothers the English, which we do not impute to our Brothers but to the Instigators the French, therefore we desire our Brothers to sit still and not to help the French or us, for the French out

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of Policy directs the Indians to strike our Brothers, that the French may lay all the Blame of the War upon the Indians, and if any Number of Indians are killed in the War the French may become easily Masters of the surviving Indians, and make them do as they please, as they now do by some Nations in their Power, to convince them I spoke with an open Heart they were welcome to us, and if they would stay a few Days, I would make them a Present. I ordered them a Glass of Rum apiece and some Tobacco, and our Council ended –

In the Afternoon the Indians desired a Coun-cil which was accordingly called and being seated they took out a string of Black and white Wam-pum and said — As a Rupture had happened be-tween them and the English their Brothers they were come to shake Hands, and be good Friends, then produced a String of black and white Wampum which some of them had from Bob Washington, and that they came now with the other Nations to shew them where to meet the Governor of Virginia, Then produced another String of black and white Wampum saying that they came in the Name of seven Nations of Indians to reconcile them to Vir-ginia and Pensilvania.

Then produced another String of Black and

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white Wampum saying they threw off all former
Galls and Evil from their Hearts/and desired we [A 39v]
would do the same, laying down on the Table a
small Belt of white Wampum consisting of six
Rows which they delivered in the Names of their
different Nations desiring to be at Peace with Vir-
-ginia and Pensilvania, telling us that Virginia and
Pensilvania had taken them by the Hand, of which
they were now very well convinced, after which
they produced a large Belt of White Wampum
consisting of seven Rows of white Wampum, a
Row for each Nation with two Strings of white
Wampum tied thereunto, both Belts had black
Wampum in Imitation of Roads or Paths from
their Nations to their Brothers, saying that at
the late Treaty at Albany all their seven Na-
-tions were included, and that the Six Nations
our Allies had told them to lye still, and they
should enjoy their Trade as formerly, and not to
interfere in the Dispute with the French on the Ohio.

Then spoke upon the two small Strings tied
to the large Belt and said, This they had from
the Six Nations and at their Request they came
here and were desired to bring their whole seven
Nations to renew their Chain of Friendship, and
as they were convinced that we had taken them

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by the Hand, and that our People at Home will rejoice greatly upon this our good and friendly Reception which we shall faithfully relate.

After all was silent and still he said when they came off the French told them, Children take bare what you do. if you do amiss you must be whip'd; so ended the Council of the Seven Nations which are cheifly in the French Interest, and appeal-ed to the Great God above to witness that what they had said was true, and spoken with an open Heart.

But as I could not be fully satisfied for want of a better Interpreter, I sent to Oshwiek for some of our friendly Indians of the Six Nations, and prevailed on the French Indians to stay to hold our Council again; Seven of them arrived on Sun-day the 29th in the Morning, one of which spoke English, and a white Man, an Interpreter along with them, about two o'Clock our Council was renewed, our Indian Allies presented a String of Wampum to the other Indians, and spoke as follows:

We are glad to see our friendly Indians, we were at Oshwiek and heard of you, we came to hear what you said, to see if the Path was cleared, and that you would speak freely with an open Heart_upon which I desired the Interpreter to acquaint them that as I was not certain for want of an

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expert Interpreter, clearly what was said on Wed-
-nesday the 18th that I begged the Favour of them
to speak and repeat the same over again before
our Brothers that/ they might hear as well as we; [p. 299]
Upon which I laid down upon the Table the Strings
and Belts I had received from them upon their
coming here - After some little pause they laid
the Belts and Strings in their Order and begun
and spoke much to the same Purpose as they
had said before, only adding this, That as they
came along they took their Brothers Bones out
of the Path at the Meadows and laid them
on one Side, and what lay across the Path they
stept over it Brothers we have now cleared
the Path and here at your Camp make a Fire,
which shall give Light to the Sky that we
may see our Brothers, and as we have made
this Fire you shall see us here again, and what
we now say is said in the seven Nations of the
Corowagans.

Then the French Indians took out a String
of black and white Wampum, and said, now
Brothers you hear all that we have said, and
we now give your great Man Bob Innes a Name,
that we may know him when we come again,
which Name was repeated in their seven different

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Languages but in English is Let our Agree-
.ment Last. They adopted two, one of our
Officers, Mr. Colhoune, and an Indian to be true
Brothers in Token of true Friendship to us, and
they called the one Hail and the other Frost;
So ended the Council for this Day, and to make
the Evening agreeable, his Majesty's Health and a
happy and lasting Agreement amongst his Subjects
was drank three Times, so we withdrew with my
promising to speak to them in the Morning.

Monday 30th. I ordered the Present on a large Table,
round which we and our friendly Indians mak-
-ing half the Circle, and the French Indians mak-
-ing the other half Circle.

Brothers there are seven Strings of black
and white Wampum upon which I speak to your
seven Nations and what I say to you is to your
seven Nations. You see us all here; We are all
Men belonging to the great King of England who
gives us all fine Cloaths, Guns, Powder, Lead, Wine,
Rum and good Provisions; we all come from the
other Side of the great Water, where we and the
French have had many a Battle. We have taken
their great Town Paris, and their King Prisoner
in former Years, as we did lately Cape-Briton, but
upon their promising to be good and honest, we

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returned them their Land again. I have been in the War against France myself since I was a Boy: I have helped to make them run, and I hope to make them run once more before I Leave them. / The French want all the Trade and to be [turned] Masters, and we the English never will allow them, to drive our Brothers off their Hunting Grounds, and so to make Slaves of them, We do not want our Brothers to fight, No; if our Bro: .ther Indians are killed, they have not another Country to bring more from. but if we are kill. .ed, we have another Country over the Great Water, and our Great King will send more. You see, but we know the French have no Faith; They always tell Lies and I have News from Home. our Great King says to the French King on the other Side the great Water, What Brother we are at Peace, and I hear you have killed my People; No Brother, it is the Governor of Canada; the Governor of Canada says, no Sir, it is not me; it is the Savages, I did all I could to stop them, but you know they are Savage Brothers. We do not want our Indians to go and kill the French; You see we have not one Indian with us. We would have all the Indians live at Peace with us, and then when we see an Indian

in the Woods. I sit still. I see my Brother he comes to trade; But when I see a Frenchman, I see a Rogue he comes to steal my Brothers Land, or to take my Life, I take my Gun, and stand ready. We have known the Six Nations many Years, and always good Friends long before the French found the Path to Canada, and we out of Friendship let them make a Fire there, when we could easily have eat them all off: Now they have nailed Lead upon the Trees on the Ohio, and want to make a Fire there, and say that it is their Land, and have drove off our Brothers from their hunting Grounds, which we never will allow — Now Brothers you have heard what I have said, and keep it in your Mind and tell it to your old and young Men, Women and Children in your Nations, that for Ages to come we may live and have a free Trade and a streight Chain of Friendship in Token that all I say is from a good Heart — I in the Name of our great King of England, and of all the Provinces of Virginia, Maryland, Pensilvania, New York, New England, New Jersey, North and South Carolina, Georgia we make you this Present, and now bury all former Evil under the great Allegany Mountain — Now Brothers I present you with this tripple String of

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white Wampum to shew you that we are will
-ing to be at peace with/every Body. Let the [Onon]
French burn and destroy all the Forts they have
Lately built, and return to their own Country,
and we will return also, and not hurt them, but
if they will continue and disturb our Brothers
and us, we must drive them where they do not
love. ____ Then I pulld out a String of black
Wampum and said, I hope now you are convinc
-ed of the Sincerity of our Friendship, and af.
-ter this you will do no Hurt to our People.
Whoever hurts or kills our Allies, which is the
Six Nations, Delawares, Shawnees, Weyandots, and
Twigtwees, hurts us. If you have now spoke from
your Hearts we shall see, and if not we shall
treat you as open Enemies. Now Brothers you
say you are hired to come from your Nations,
and you left your great Men (Onon) behind. I here
present your great Man with a Meadal the
Picture of the Great King of England France
and Ireland &c. (Onon) of all his people here this Side
the Great Waters, and I desire you will carry
it to him, and shew him all what you have
heard and see. (Onon) This was interpreted to the strange
Indians, and the Meddal put up, and I said,
I was done. ____ Then stood up our friendly Indian

an expert Speaker, one of the Six Nations, and took out a large Belt of white Wampum, and as they were well acquainted with some of their Nations, repeated many Passages that had happened in former Years, and put them in mind of some Treachery they had been guilty of and recommended strongly the Union of Friendship, by keeping fast the Chain which our friendly Indians, We, and they had taken hold of and said a great deal to that purpose, and so delivered them the Belt.

I was going to take my Leave being a great while confined amongst their Smoke and Tobacco, and very cold Weather, the French Indians desired I would stay, they had something more to offer; They said I had made a present to their great Man, and we should see him; After some pause, the chief Speaker took out the Meddal and put it upon a Randock Indian with very Long Hair on his Head, upon which he stood up, made a Speech and said; Now Brothers I have taken you by the Hand, You shall know whatever passes amongst our people. Tho' it goes down into the Earth in one Place, and takes Root and comes up in another, you shall know. Upon which an old Man took out a small String of

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[p.103]

/Black and white Wampum cheifly black, and de-
-livered me, speaking Words, much to the same pur-
-pose, as the cheif Onundock did

So ended our Grand Council, after which we drank a good Health to our King, and Love and Friendship amongst our Brothers, in three Bumpers of Whisky, for want of better Liquor. Our Brothers excused us from drinking as much, being it would go the further.

Tuesday 31st in the Morning the Stranger Indians pro-
-posed to return Home; I entertained them with Pro-
-visions and Liquor for their Journey. I took the Cheif Man into my House in the Fort alone; He spoke perfect good French. I represented the Ad-
-vantage it was to their Nations to have peace and a free Trade with the English. Let all their people stay at Home, and not to help the French, neither here, nor to the northward and we shall never quarrell with the Indians, tho' we fight with the French. I made him a present of a fine em-
-broidered Hatt and Vest, and took my Leave, order-
-ing the Officer of the Day to see them all with-
-out the Sentrys.

In the Evening I prepared a present for our friendly Indians and sent for them into the Fort, and made them the following Speech. Now

Brothers you have heard all and seen all that I have done and said to the French or Indians of the Seven Nations. I did not send for you to receive this present, or to interpret what these Strang. ers said to us; No, I could have done very well with them with the Interpreter I had, but I sent for you to be Witness that you might all see with your own Eyes, and hear with your own Ears every Thing that passed; and if you had any Thing to add to what I said, you might have the same Opportunity to speak, which you have done; I remember our Brothers were angry with Lord Washington for not coming from the French Fort, and not acquainting you with every Thing that passed; And you may depend I never will say or do any Thing of Consequence, without you or some of our Brothers is in our Council, so am very glad to see you here, and I beg you will accept this small Present. Two Indians who were sent by our Six Nations being present, who came with a special Message to the Ochwhich and Dela. ware Indians, I desired they would likewise accept of a Present, and to acquaint our Brothers the Six Nations with all they had seen and heard, and how strong we were making ourselves, and hoped

[p.208]

/they would let us hear from them, when Monacatoothe

returned. The Indians took out a String of Wam-
-pum, and made a friendly Speech, saying, Brothers
we are very glad to see all this; So the Confer-
-ence ended.

I then resumed the Conference, and said,
Brothers I have a Thought in my Mind, and want
your Advice, I have a Letter from one of the French
Prisoners, and as the sending of this Letter would
give me an Opportunity to send to the French Fort,
If you would find me a good faithful Indian when
you go Home, I would pay him for going there, and
then he can see every Thing that the French is
about, and hear all the News, and the French will
not suspect him, and we shall see and hear how
these Indians gone to Day from us will behave, and
how many Men they had behind them in the
Woods.- Now Brothers, that you may not think
we are making you the Messengers of any Intrigue
with the French, I will immediately burn the Letter,
and let the Project alone till some other Time. You
may depend we never will make peace with the
French untill we drive them off the Lands, they
have so unjustly drove us and our Brothers off from
their Hunting Grounds. The Chief Indian paused some
time and consulted, but very soon said, you speak
so well, and we like what you say, that I will

C.O.5:15

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immediately agree. that these two shall go Tomorrow Morning, and bring an Account of every thing that you can recommend. This concluded all for this Night, only a sober Glass of Rum.

January 1st I numbered up all my Commands, and prepared Necessaries for my Messengers who were ready to set off. Now seeing I had so favourable an Op-portunity, I enquired of our Brothers if it was not a good Time to send a Message and a String of Wampum to our Brothers the Twightwees, and let them hear from us; They agreed, and was glad to find I was so forward in mentioning that. I im-mediately prepared three large Strings of black & white Wampum and my Speech, which was to desire they would hold fast the Chain of Friendship with us, and our Brothers, and that they might be of good Courage. They might depend upon hearing and seeing of us in the Spring, and that whatever they wanted, as Match Coats, Guns, powder and Lead, we should bring enough. only lye still, and be strong, and say nothing.

So ended this Council.

James Innes.

[Indorsed] Endorsed A Treaty with the Indians at / Camp Mount Pleasant / December 17th 1754 / Copy / in Lt Gr Dinwiddie's Letter / of Janr 20th 1755.

Georgia; 7th February 1755 [Recd]

Sir,

I have the Honour of Your Letter of the 26th. October, acquainting me with some of the Measures that are thought proper for the Defence of His Majestys just Rights and Dominions in North America: Together with Orders for my taking the previous Steps towards contributing as far as I can to have about 3000 Men in readiness to be enlisted, &c.

I beg leave to Assure You that I shall take a very Particular Care not to suffer the least Neglect or Delay in Obeying, to the Utmost of my Power, all the Orders you have been pleased to give me in that Letter; Which I immediately communicated to the General Assembly of this His Majestys Province, under my Government; But the Colony being very Young in its Infancy They say that their circumstances are such that [illegible] they can contribute Nothing in regard either to Men or Money, as you will please to observe in their Answer to me, which I have enclosed.

I am, with the Greatest Respect,

Sir/ Your Most Obedient and

Most Humble Servant

J Reynolds

To the Right Honble Sir Thomas Robinson &c.

Endorsed Georgia Feby 7th 1755./ Gov. Reynolds/ Rd May 6th [illegible]

C.O.5:15

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[Ends:]

To His Excellency John Reynolds Esqr Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majestys Province of Georgia

The humble Address of the Council of Geor-gia met in General Assembly

We His Majestys loyal Subjects the Members of the Council of Georgia beg leave to express our hearty Thanks for His Majestys Paternal Regard of these his Provinces intimated to us in a Letter from S^r^ Thomas Robinson one of His Majestys principal Secretarys of State dated the 26^th^ October 1754 and laid before this House by your Excellency And tho' we are extremely willing and desirous to concur in every measure that may conduce to the gen-eral Security and Welfare of the Continent of North America yet we find this Colony so far from being able at present to assist their Fellow Subjects that it is indeed it Self in great want of His Majesty's Royal Consideration and further Assistance

By Order of the House

Pat. Graham President

Council Chamber

Febr^y^ 4. 1755.

[Endd]

Endorsed in Gov^r^ Reynold's Letter of Febr^y^ 7^th^ 1755.

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[Nov 17]

To His Excellency John Reynolds Esqr Captain
General and Governor in chief of His Ma.
-jestys Colony of Georgia

May it please Your Excellency

We His Majestys most dutiful and Loyal Subjects the House of Represeatatives of His Majestys Colony of Georgia have taken into Consideration the Letter laid before Us by your Excellencys Order, and sent to your Excellency by Sir Thomas Robin.
-son One of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State in relation to the present State of Affairs in North America, And We should most readily conform to His Majestys Pleasure signified therein, but our Cir.
-cumstances are unhappily such that we can con.
-tribute Little or Nothing either in Regard to Men or Money, on the contrary We should be in a most deplorable and defenceless Condition if this Province should be attacked by French or In.
-dian Enemies, unless His Majesty would be gra.
-ciously pleased to grant us some Troops for our Assistance & Support And we beg leave to assure your Excellency that were our Abilities equal to our Inclination, We should not be remiss on this important Occasion, as we think it incumbent on [p 118]
All His Majestys American Subjects to exert themselves with the utmost Vigour in this Time of common

Danger, And we are truly sensible of His Majesty's paternal Care in taking such speedy and power-full measures for the Safety of His Subjects however remotely situated they may be from His Royal Presence

By Order of the House
Da: Douglas's Speaker

Feb. 6. 1755

[Indorsed]
Endorsed in Gov^r Reynolds's Letter / of Feb^y 7^th 1755

REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION,

To His Excellency John Reynolds Esq. Captain [Genl]
General and Governor in Chief of His Majesty's
Colony of Georgia

The Humble Address of the Council and
House of Representatives met in General
Assembly.

We His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects the Council and House of Representatives of the Colony of Georgia, beg leave to represent to your Excellency that this His Majesty's Colony is in a defenceless State and Condition at this time of general Commotion in North America, and consequently in impending Danger, as well from Foreign Enemies as from the Insults of our neighbouring Indians, for altho a frontier Colony, it is unprovided with Troops, Artillery, Fortifications, Arms and Ammunition, and We therefore request your Excellency to lay before His Majesty an Account of our helpless and dangerous Situation, that His Majesty may be graciously pleased to order us such Assistance and Relief as shall to Him in His great Wisdom seem necessary and expedient.

Pat: Graham President.

Da: Douglass Speaker.

February the 19th 1755.

[4025]

Annapolis. January. 13th. 1755—

Right Honourable

In Obedience to his Majestys pleasure which
Your had done me the Honour to signify to me.
very soon after my Return from Virginia I pro-
-ceeded to the place called Wills Creek where Go-
-vernor Dinwiddie had ordered the Three Indepen-
-dant Companies with that of Maryland to En-
-camp. at my Arrival there I learnt that the French
on the Ohio had been reinforced by some Regu-
-lar Troops from Canada, & by a considerable Num-
-ber of the Canadack. Ottoway, & Cachnawaga In-
-dians, which Tribes are & have been many years
attached to & entirely devoted to the French In-
-terest. The Confirmation of this Intelligence & Ac-
-count, The inconsiderable Number of the Troops that
we had at that time been able to levy, & the sur-
-prizing Backwardness of the People to enter into
the Service, soon convinced me of the Vanity of
the Hopes I had entertained of being enabled to
attempt something successfully this Winter, where-
-fore I tarried there only about a Fortnight, while
the Men were employed in finishing some Barracks
which they had before my Arrival begun, & I gave
Orders as the Weather should permit to build some
Store-Houses for the Reception & preservation of such

Provisions as it was necessary & expedient to lay in immediately, lest a severe Season should set in & deprive the Troops of all means of getting any kind of Supplies, the Situation of the Camp in a distant & almost uninhabited part of this Province,
[p. 36]
/being better calculated to protect the Virginia & Mary Land Back Settlements, & prevent the Incursions of any small parties of the Enemy, than to be easily & commodiously supplied at present with Provisions. Upon my Return thence I met the Assembly of this Province, & pressed them in the most urgent manner to make an Addition to the Sum they sometime since granted for the Defence of His Majestys Dominions, but the Conduct of the Neighbouring Province whose Assembly was then & had been some time sitting, influenced but too much I doubt their Minds & Behaviour, & made them averse (after having made the greatest professions of their being truly sensible of the Danger that threatens them, & fully determined to pay the greatest Regard & Obedience to His Majestys pleasure which You had been pleased to signify to them) to granting any farther Supplies, unless by an Addition to the Paper Cash already circulating in this Government, to which Scheme, as it evidently appeared pregnant with many Evils & much Detriment to the Province in general, the Upper House of

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Assembly refused their Concurrence. I have ap-
-pointed them to meet again the twentieth of next
Month, when I hope they will fall on some unex-
-ceptionable Method to raise & give as large a Sum
as the Circumstances of the Inhabitants can af-
-ford; at least, you will be pleased to think I
hope, that I will leave [p.637] no Stone unturned to pro-
-cure from them such Supplies as the Exigency of
Affairs require, & to shew on my part the most
dutiful & punctual Obedience to His Majesty's Com-
-mands, & the Orders & Directions that I have had
the honour to receive from Yourself & the Lord
Proprietary. The intervening time I propose to spend
at the Camp, for which place I intend to depart
to Morrow, having ordered all the Virginia & our
Recruits (who together make about Six hundred)
thither, that I may endeavour to discipline them
as well as the time will permit, & make proper Pre-
-parations for the Reception of those Forces which
His Majesty has been graciously pleased to order
over for the Protection of His American Subjects
& His Dominions upon this Continent. You will not
I hope entertain the least Doubt of my being inces-
-sant in my Endeavours to excite & rouse the People
of this Province to the performance of their Duty
to His Majesty & themselves; & I beg leave to assure

you that to the utmost of my power I will obey in every Article the Orders you were pleased to give me in your Letter dated the Twenty Sixth of October which I have just had the Satisfac.tion to receive. if the Troops who have Orders to be transported hither should disembark in, or have Occasion to march tho this Government, (sic) I will take Care that they shall want neither Victuals, or any Accommodations that this Coun.try where the Inhabitants are dispersed & not resi.dent together in Towns or Villages, can afford. I should not do Captains Fitzhugh & Rose an half [illegible] Pay Justice, if I forgot or neglected to acquaint you that these Gentlemen the one from Virginia the other from the lower part of this Province have offered their Service & propose to go on the Expedition. I yesterday received Advice from the Camp that fifteen french Indians of different Tribes came thi.ther lately in an Amicable manner & at a Con.ference which was held with them made great pro.fessions of their & their respective Tribes being de.termined to remain entirely Neuter, & not to inter.fere in the Disputes which they observed subsist.ing between the French & Us, but notwithstanding all their Assurances I cannot persuade myself to put any great Confidence in their promises, or to

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entertain any very favourable Opinion of their Sincerity, as I am informed that they came immediately from the French Fort. Governor Morris Has just acquainted me that He has received Intelligence of the Arrival of a very considerable Body of the Enemy on the Ohio, but as he also informs me that he has already taken several Opportunities of transmitting such an Account to your Hand, I will not be troublesome by a Repetition, or presume any longer to intrude on your time at present than to profess with what Truly & Respect

I am Right Honourable Sir

your most humble & most

devoted Servant

Hor^{n} Sharpe

S^{r} Thomas Robinson Secretary of State.

Endorsed Maryland Jan^{y} 13th 1755/ L^{t} Gov^{r} Sharpe/

Rec^{d} May 7th

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Boston New England Feb.y 18th 1755. [Navy]

Sir,

The Inclos'd Copy of my Speech to the Assembly and their Resolves in consequence of it, will lay before you the Plan of Operations, I have propos'd to them for the ensuing Spring in aid of this Attempt to drive the French out of Nova Scotia, and the Success it meets with in this Province; How I may succeed in exciting the other Governm.ts pro-posd to join in this Scheme for the publick Ser-vice, I will not presume to say: If the Plan should take Effect with them, I think it is not to be doubted but that a successfull Execution of it, and of the Enterprize against the French Incroach-ments upon the Peninsula would change the present Scene of Affairs upon this Continent so greatly to the Advantage of his Majesty's Colonies, that it would go far towards settling every point in dispute between them and the French by the End of the year; especially if the five most Western Colonies could, with the Assistance of the two Regiments des-tin'd for Virginia, unite their Force in erecting a strong Fort near Niagara, which would effectually stop the Progress of the French in that Quarter, cutt off their Communication with the River Ohio thro' Lake Erie, and bid fair to attach the Indians in general

to the English Interest: But tho' this last men-
-tion'd Union between the Western Colonies should
not take place this year; yet the Execution of the
former part of the Scheme would rid the English
Colonies of all the French Incroachments, from the
Isthmus of Nova Scotia to Crown point, and when
a Strong Lodgment shall be made near the Head
[p.250] of the/River Kennebeck, as is proposd to be done,
leave the English in Possession of a Line of Forts that
would command the principal Passes into the Heart
of Canada thro' their two Capital Cities of Montreal
and Quebec, and effectually reclaim the Indians of the
six Nations to a Dependance upon his Majesty:- And
this of itself, Sir, must have a great and immediate
Effect for disconcerting the French Schemes upon the
Ohio likewise.

The Assembly's Request to me to appoint a
Commander in Chief for the proposd Expedition is
a Circumstance, I could have been content on more
Accounts than one to have had omitted in their
Resolves; But I could not decline complying with
it, without occasioning such a general Dissatisfac-
-tion, and Jealousy, as might have hurt his Majesty's
Service at this Conjuncture.

I have no Account of Major General Brad-
-dock's being arrivd yet in North America; By last

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night's Advices from New York it is said that the Report of Commodore Keppell's Arrival at Barbados with nine of his Majesty's Ships of War under his Command, was confirmd; Mr. Braddick possibly may be in that Squadron: Upon his Arrival in Virginia I shall communicate to him, the Enterprize now set on foot from this Governmt: as the confederate Forces to be raisd for executing it will consist of the Militia of each of the Colonies concernd in it, and be raisd by the respective Governors by Virtue of his Majesty's Commissions to them, which give them that Power within the Limits of their several Governments, & constitute them Captain Generals & Commanders in Chief of the Militia under their respective Commands. I hope my [illegible] nominating a Commander [illegible] in Chief of these Forces (at least in the absence of General Braddick) will not be thought improper: His Majesty's Service seemd to me absolutely to require it; Had I not done it, the several Colonies would have insisted upon their Choice of one; which might have been inconvenient: I believe they are all, or much the greatest part of them more likely to acquiesce in my Nomination than in any other's, and it was no small Motive with me to take it upon myself, that it seemd to put it into my Power to make a very considerable Step towards engaging

the Indians of the six Nations to join in this Enterprize with us, a point wch if carryd, promises to be of the utmost Consequence to his Majesty's Service in North America at this time: some Paragraphs in the Inclosd Copy of my Circular Letter to the several Governors upon this Occasion, to which I beg leave to refer you, will fully explain to you, Sir, why I think the nomination I have made, may have so happy an Effect; and will shew that I have acted in it without the least Partiality to the Honour of the Province under my own Government, which yet hath no small Pretensions to expect I should have given the Preference to a Massachusetts Officer in this Case.

The two thousand Irregulars are now raising in this Province for the Attempt agt the Incroachments of the French in Nova Scotia, & will I hope be compleated in time; I have procurd ten battering peices of 18 lb ball from Lieut. Govr De Lancey, and shall add to them four Cannon of 24 lb. ball from Castle William in my own Government: They have, I understand, sufficient Mortars and Shells, as also [1.433] field/peices at Halifax; and Colonel Lawrence informs me that there are 1000 Stands of Arms at Annapolis Royal, wch will greatly lessen the disappointment, if no small Arms should arrive in time from England,

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Colonel Lawrence and I shall have concerted & agreed upon the plan of Operations before the Imbarka. .tion of the Troops; I have propos'd that two Sloops at least should be continually going between the Bay of Fundy and Boston, & two more between Boston & Halifax during the time of the Expedition, and in case of any unforeseen Emergency I will use my best Endeavours to support it from this place.

I have now rais'd 700 Men for my own Regi. .ment and make no Doubt of compleating it in time to stand ready for that Service, in case the General shall approve of it and direct me to em. .ploy it so.

Colonel Lawrence is apprehensive of some Insults being made upon Halifax by the French in revenge for their being drove from the North part of the Bay of Fundy: If they should Attempt that, without first making a formal Declaration of War they must be guilty of a most unparalell'd Out. .rage in contempt of the Laws Rules of publick Faith: They can't pretend that the title, which they set as to the Isthmus, and St. John's River is not disputable, and that they ought to have waited for the deter. .mination of the Commissaries of both Crowns, in consequence of the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle, and not have seiz'd upon the Country in dispute with an

Arm'd force, during the Negotiation; which gives his Majesty a plain right to dispossess them of it: But they have acknowledg'd in a solemn Manner, that Halifax is within the undoubted limits of his Majesty's Territories.

[illegible] /At all Events, Sir, should the using of the necessary Means for the recovery of his Majesty's just Rights produce a War in North America, it seems more eligible to enter into one, when the French are dislodg'd from their Incroachmt: there than after half his Majesty's Dominions shall be lost to them; which must probably be the Case, if they are not soon dispossess'd of those Incroachments.

But there seems the justest reason to hope, if the propos'd Operations are successfully executed this Year, that it will on the Contrary ward off the Warr, which if we judge from Appearances on this Side the Water, is hovering over the Colonies: If it should not, yet it will be then in his Majesty's Power soon to extinguish it in the most effectual manner, by possessing himself of Canada itself, especially if an Union of his Colonies should be timely form'd and establish'd among them.

Measures have been taken to keep the Destination of the Irregulars now raising in the Province as secret as may be; I have put the

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French Subjects residing here under a Restraint at Boston; The Assembly hath impower'd me for the Space of four Months to detain all Ships, that I shall suspect. And to prevent the French from being supplyd with Provisions from hence, all Masters of outward bound Vessells having on board more Provisions and Military Stores than what are sufficient for the Ship's Use in the Voyage, are oblig'd to give Bond to land them in some part of his Majesty's Dominions.

I am with the highest Respect

Sir,

Your most Humble and

most Obedient Servant.

W Shirley

The Rt Hon^ble Sir Thomas Robinson Kt of the Bath

one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

[d.orb]

Endorsed Boston Febry 18. 1755 / Govr Shirley / R May 12.

Copy of Governour Shirleys Speech to the [f. 107]
Assembly of the Massachusetts Bay February
13. 1755

Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives

Since making my Speech to you, at the beginning of this Session; upon considering the happy Effects, which thro' the Divine Blessing upon his Majestys Arms, in the Expedition now fitting out for dislodging the French from their Forts upon the Isthmus, and St Johns River in Nova Scotia; we may promise to this Government, it has occurrd to me as a very considerable one, that it affords us a most favourable Opportunity for building a Fort upon the rocky Eminence near known Point, which may command the French Fort there in case of a Raption with France, and put it into our power not only to cover our Western Frontier against the Incursions of the French and Indians from Canada, but to march an Army in a few days to the Gates of the City of Montreal itself, and pour our Troops into the Heart of their Country:

How greatly such an Event is to be wished for; How much Blood and Treasure it would save to his Majestys Subjects of New England and New York in a time of War, I need not observe, Gentle. men, to <u>you;</u> The Depredations committed upon us in

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the late War by the French, and their Indians from Fort St. Frederic at Crown Point, are still fresh in our Memories and Providence seems now to point out the present conjuncture, as the most proper Opportunity for securing it.

The Chief Force and Attention of the French are now drawn to the Ohio, and employ'd in secur-ing and extending their Incroachments upon his Ma-jestys Territories in those parts. And in a short time, upon (more) the first Alarm, which our Expedition for remov' the french out of Nova Scotia will give y^m in Canada, they will naturally draw from thence what Force they can spare for the Support of their Incroachments upon the Isthmus and St Johns River; and in this divided State of their Strength and Counsels, it is most Evident, the Country about Montreal (Mont.) must be very much unprepared to repel the Attempt, I am now speaking of; Especially if to the Surprize which they must then be in at the appearance of a con-siderable Body of Troops so near one of their two Capi-tal Cities, a feint should be made at the Head of Kennebeck or the River Chaudiere to cause a Diversion of their Forces in Canada, for the Defence of their Metropolis at Quebec

How greatly the Operations I propose, if carryd on <u>this</u> year must contribute towards ridding ourselves

of the French Incroachments, with which we are now hemm'd in from Nova Scotia as far as North Carolina; To the reclaiming of the whole Body of Indians to our Interest, Establishing a Barrier line of Forts against the French Settlements on the North side of the River St Lawrence; And making ourselves Masters of the principal Passes into Cana. da. for driving the French off this Continent, when. ever it shall be his Majestys pleasure to order that to be done. I am perswaded, Gentlemen, you so fully conceive, that it is needless for me to di. late upon it.

You well know, Gentlemen, how much the Success of the Expedition against Louisbourg was owing to its being well timed; Had it been defer'd to the Year following, it seems doubtfull what might have been the Event of it.

Let us avail ourselves of the present Con. juncture with the same prudence and activity, that we did of that, and we may hope for [illegible] Success, and that this Province will be the first Mover in the Operations, which will restore the General Tran. quility of North America, as it was in that which contributed so greatly to the General Peace of his Majestys Dominions.

It will require no small Force, Gentlemen,

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to execute with Success the Attempt I propose; And so far as it depends upon me, you may rely upon the Assistance at least of my Regiment to do it.

This is an Object, Gentlemen, well worthy of your closest attention, and I should have been guilty of a Breach of that Vigilance, which it is my Duty to keep over the Security and Welfare of his Majestys good People within this Province, if I had not warnid you of it: What I propose to you for your Consideration may prevent a long expen-sive War which seems nearly approaching us.

If <u>you</u> Gentlemen will make provision for enabling me to pursue the measures proper for the Occasion; I hope you are fully persuaded, that I stand ready to execute them.

W Shirley

Council Chamber February 13. 1755.

Copy Examined

pp Tho: Clarke Dpty Secry

[Endorsed] Endorsed Copy/ Of Governour Shirleys Speech to/ the As-sembly of the Massachusets/ Bay February 13. 1755/ in Gov: Shirleys Letter of/ Febry 18th 1755.

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[A. 001]

Province of the Massachusetts Bay

In the House of Representatives February 27. 1755 (nos)

Voted That upon his Excellency the Gov.
.ernours being Informed that the Governments of
Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire con.
.sent to the proposed Expedition to Crown Point, then
he be desired forthwith to issue his Proclamation
for the raising of this Province Quota of the four
thousand Men exclusive of the eight hundred men
proposed to be raised by New York, depending on
their bearing their propotion of the said Expedi.
.tion by finding Cannon and Warlike Stores, Pro.
.visions, Battoes &c in case that Government dont
raise said men; and upon said Proclamations be.
.ing issued the Members of this Court are absolved
from the Oath of Secresy so far as it relates to
the said Expedition

Sent up for Concurrence

J Hubbard Spkr

In Council February 27. 1755 (nos) Read and Concurd

Thos Clarke Dpty Secry

Consented to

W Shirley

Copy. Examined

pr Thos Clarke Dpty Secry

Endorsed

[1759]

Boston, New England March 26th 1755.

Sir,

The incloid copy of one of my Circular letters to the several Governours of the Colonies of New England, New York, New Jersey's and Pen. silvania proposing to them to join with the Gov. ernmt of the Massachusetts Bay in the intended Enterprize at Crown-point, and the Copies of the letters from the three New England Governments will shew your, Sir, their determinations upon this Affair. The Colony of Connecticutt hath voted 1000 men to be raisd, and upon Occasion 1200, for this Service; the province of New Hampshire 500, and the Colony of Rhode Island 400. I have not yet recievd any Answer from the Governmt of New Jersey's or Pen. silvania, nor a definitive one from that of New York: But I form great hopes of their joining with this Goveramt from the Influence and good manage. ment of Mr Pownall whom I have sent as a Com. missioner to New York, The Jerseys & Pensilvania, with those Goveramts

Yesterday I layd these proceedings before the assembly, and this day they have passd the in. closd Vote, and to morrow after having taken all the measures I can for putting the necessary preparations for fitting out the Expedition in motion

in this and the several Governmt concernd. I shall set out on my Journey for Annapolis in Maryland to meet General Braddock.

I have the honour to be with the highest Re-
spect,

Sir

Your most Humble and
most Obedient Servant

W Shirley

The Rt Hon^ble Sir Thomas Robinson Knt of the Bath, one of his May^ties principal Secretaries of State

[Addr]

Endorsed Boston March 26th 1755 Govr Shirley's R May 12th

[4 ob 2]

Boston New England February 24. 1755.

Sir,

It would be needless for me to Observe to You, how his Majesty's Colonies upon this Continent are surrounded with the Incroachments of the French: They have long since markd out for themselves a large Empire upon the back of it, extending from Cap Breton to the Gulph of Mexico and Compre-hending the Country between the Apalachean Moun-tains and pacific Ocean with the numerous, power-full Tribes of Indians inhabiting it; and they are now finishing the extreme parts by a communica-tion between Louisbourg & Quebec across the Isthmus of Nova Scotia, & Bay of Fundy at the one end, & a junction of Canada with the Mississippi by a line of forts upon the Great Lakes & Rivers at the Other.

It is fallin to the Lot of the most Eastern Colonies to be hemm'd in by that part of their Incroachmts, wch begin in Nova Scotia, & end at Crown point among wch the Fort at Beau Sejour upon the Isthmus of the Peninsula, that on St John's River, & Fort St Frederick near Crown point are the principal.

His Majesty, out of his paternal Care for the Welfare & security of his good Subjects of these Colonies in September 1753, signify'd his Royal pleasure

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by the Rt Honble Earl of Holdernesse's Letter, dated the 21st of that month to his Governours there, that they should with the Armid force of the militia under their respective Commands (if need be) remove all Encroach-ments upon his Territories within the limits of their several Governments, & use their best endeavours for promoting a General Union among them for their Common Defence against an Invader.

In July last by a letter from the Rt Honble Sir Thomas Robinson, dated the 5th of that month, his Majesty signify'd his orders to me & Colonel Lawrence Lt Governour & Commander in Chief of Nova Scotia, that [illegible] we should concert measures for attacking the French Forts in that province.

And in December last I had the Honour to receive another letter from Sir Thomas Robinson, dated 26th of October, wherein he acquainted me that his majesty, upon taking the State of his Colonies in North America into his Royal Consideration, was graciously pleasid, besides ordering two Regiments of foot from Ireland under the Command of Sir Peter Halket & Colonel Dunbar to be sent to Virginia, to order me and Sir William Pepperell to raise each of us a Regiment of foot, consisting of 1000 men under our respective Commands for the Defence of his Colonies here.

In Obedience to the first mentiond orders Colonel

Lawrence and I have concerted measures for dis-
-lodging the French from their Forts in Nova
Scotia, & driving them out of that province; and
among other preparations for that purpose I am
now raising a Reinforcement of 2000 men for his
Majesty's Regular Troops there, to be embark'd in
time to be Landed in the Bay of Fundy by the
first week of April; which I have reason to think
I can depend upon accomplishing.

In Consequence of the latter I have made a
great progress in raising my Regiment, & believe there
is no great doubt of it's being Compleated by the
latter end of March.

Mr Dinwiddie Governour of Virginia in his
letter to me, dated January 14th, acquaints me that his
Govermt had a great Dependence upon a Strong
Diversion's being made by Sir William Pepperell's &
my Regiments this Summer at some part of Canada
in favour of the Attempts of the Western Colonies to
repel the French upon the Ohio: and such a Diversion
of the French Forces must likewise greatly facilitate
the Enterprize for driving the French from their In-
-croachments in Nova Scotia.

[p.685]
/It is most Evident, that at the same time
the Expedition in Nova Scotia, and the Schemes, which
principally employ the Attention of the French, and

a great part of their forces upon the Ohio, afford a most favourable opportunity for the four colonies of New England, and those of New york and the New Jersys, with their united Strength, to erect such a fort near Brown point, as may Command the French fort there, and curb the City of montreal it self.

These were the Motives, which induc'd me to make the proposal of such an Attempt to the Assembly with-in my own Government; wch is particularly set forth in my Speech to them upon this Occasion, a copy of which together with a Copy of the Resolves of the Assembly consequent upon it, I inclose to Your Honour.

In these Resolves Your Honour will find what Number of Troops this Government thinks necessary to be raisd in the whole for the Execution of this At-tempt, with the Quotas they propose for the consider-tion of the several Colonies concernd: and I hope it will not be thought that they have under rated their own Quota, when it is considerd that out of the 2200 men, wch are raising for Sir William Pepperell's & my Regiments, & 2000 now raising for the Expedition to Nova Scotia, upwards of 3000 of them will be taken out of this Province, wch with the 1200 proposd to be raisd in it for Crown point, will amount to considerably more than one eighth part of its fight-ing men, and that they were at an heavy charge

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last year in carrying on an Expedition upon the River Kennebec, & erecting fort Halifax there; which as it is a great Advance towards securing the principal pass into the Heart of Canada over agt their metropolis of Quebec; and through which River the French have the shortest Passage into the Atlantick Ocean of any [1066] River in North America; must be deemd an advan. -tage to all the Eastern Colonies in general.

Your Hor will observe, that the Assembly hath desird me to appoint an Officer for the chief com. -mand of the propos'd Expedition; It is Essential to the Service that such an one should be appointed, and as it seemd necessary that he should be pro. -pos'd at the beginning, and this Governmt is the first mover in this Expedition (as it was likewise in that agt Cap Breton, of which also I appointed the Commander in Chief) it is hopd the other Colonies will have no objection to it

The Gentleman, whom I shall nominate for this Command, will I am perswaded shew Your Honour that the only motive, wch will sway me in this Appointment, is a strict Regard to his Ma. -jesty's Service & the Interest of the Common Cause, with. -out the least partiality to any one of the Governmts concernd.

The Gentleman, I have thought of upon this

important occasion is Colonel William Johnson of mount Johnson in the Mohawk Country, whose distinguish'd Character for the great Influence, he hath for several Years maintain'd over the Indians of the Six Nations, is the Circumstance which determines me in my Choice preferable to any Gentleman of my own Government tho' there are not wanting there Officers of Rank & Experience, out of whom I could have nominated one.

Your Honour is sensible, that one of the principal things we have in view in this Expedition is to retain such of those Castles, as are not yet gone over to the French, in the English Interest, & to reclaim those, wch are; and it would be of unspeakable [p.467] Advantage to us at this Conjuncture, if we could engage any of them in the propos'd Service: Colonel Johnson rais'd & Commanded a Regiment of Indians in the late intended Expedition against Canada; and with regard to his Power to engage them now, no Gentleman can stand in Competition with him: Besides, his military Qualifications for this particular Service & knowledge of the Country & place agt wch this Expedition is destin'd are very conspicuous.

The fort intended to be built in this Expedition is propos'd to be so situated, as to command

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Fort St Frederick at Crown point; to be made defen-sible agt the Strength, wch the French can sudden-ly bring against it from montreal; to be erected by the Army employ'd; and as to the Support, Gar-risoning, and Command of it, that must depend upon his Majesty's pleasure, wch will be soon known concerning it.

It must be fresh in your Honours Memory, that the reduction of the French Fort at Crown point was look'd upon as a necessary Step in the late intended Expedition agt Canada, & how far advanc'd the preparations of the Colonies concern'd in that Scheme were, 'till I know not by what fatal disunion of our Counsels, a most unhappy Stop was put to it.

One remarkable Circumstance occurrs to me upon this occasion, when the late Sir Peter Warren & my self were endeavouring to engage one Monsieur Vandreuil, then at Boston, a very intelligent French Man, as a pilot to our Forces up the River St Law-rence in the afores: late Expedition, he Smil'd, & told us, he should not be convinc'd that the English did in good Earnest design an Expedition agt Cana-da from these Colonies, until he should hear [p. 466] that Fort St Frederic was attack'd.

But I am perswaded, nothing more need be urg'd to your Honour concerning the great importance

of the propos'd Expedition. except that besides securing our selves against future Depredations of the French from their Fort at Crown Point in a time of War. we shall wipe off the reproach of the Colonies for suffering that dangerous Incroachment upon his Majesty's Territories to be at first erected.

I should have mention'd to your Honour, that the two Houses of the Assembly in this province have bound themselves by Oath to Secrecy, both with re-spect to the Expedition now preparing agt the French Incroachm^ts in Nova Scotia, and that propos'd agt those at Crown point; w^ch I thought proper to observe, that Your Honour may use Your discretion in that point, w^th regard to the assembly within Your own Gov.-ernment

The same Union of Sentiments & like Spirit, with which the Colonies propos'd to join in the present Expedition acted in the late intended one against Canada, will I hope prevail in their Coun.-cils at this most Critical Conjuncture, and par.-ticularly that the depredations, which the Country of Albany felt from the French & their Indians at Crown point, not only in time of War, but very lately in a time of Peace, together with it's present expos'd State, will move the Govern^t of New York to an hearty Concurrence with the Massachusetts

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Bay in the proposd Expedition: Your Honour is sen-
-sible that in order to avail ourselves of this fa-
-vourable opportunity for this Enterprize, a speedy
determination upon it and the greatest Dispatch in
our preparations for it is necessary.

I have Commissionated Thomas Pownall Esqr to
wait on Your Honour upon this Occasion, and to
Solicit your Governmt to join with my own in this
necessary peice of Service, for the protection of his
Majesty's Colonies under our Care / against the danger- [p 469]
-ous incroachments of the French, and hope he will
succeed in the Execution of his Commission.

I am with the greatest Regard

Sir,

Your Honour's most Humble
and most Obedient Servant

W Shirley.

Lt Governour De Lancey

true Copy,

W. Shirley.

Endorsed Copy of Govr Shirley's / letter to Lt Govr De Lancey / dated Febr 24. 1755. / in Govr Shirleys Letter of / March 26th 1755. [p 470]

[Dupe]

Hartford March 19. 1755

Sir.

I mmediately on receiving your Excell.y Letter of the 21st of February last (with the Incloid Copies) by the Gentlemen Commissioners from you, I gave Orders for the General Assembly to meet at this Place, before whom I laid the whole Affair, who on consideration thereof, very generally approvd of the proposals, & concurrd in Sentiments with your Excel. -lency and the Assembly of the Province, in the Sub. -stance of that Affair, & are well spirited to exert themselves to the utmost of our Ability therein, & have accordingly come into two Resolves, one for raising The Thousand Men your Assembly were pleasd to propose, the other for making a Rein. -forcement in case of need, Copies of wch for more full Information, I have incloisd; Those Resolves will discover of how great Importance for his Majestys Service, & Security of these Governments, this Attempt appears to this Colony, & how chearfully they em. -brace the Opportunity to unite with your & the other Governmts at this favourable Conjuncture in the proposd Scheme for the general defence of these parts of his Majestys Dominions, & also how far they are determind to proceed beyond their pro. -portion, or even without any regard to the proportions

of the other Governments in providing additional Force that the Enterprize (by the Permission of divine Providence) may succeed, depending on the Generosity of the other Governments in such further Additions as shall be needed, wherein we doubt not they will respectively exert themselves in proportion to the Importance of this Service and the Exigency of the Case.

[A 478]

Endorsed Extract of a Letter from Govr Fitch to Govr Shirley dated March 9 1755 (con. rec.) in Govr Shirleys Letter of March 28th 1756.

[p. 179]

Province of the Massachusetts Bay

The Report of a Committee of both Houses appointed to take under Consideration His Excellencys Speech from the Chair on the 25th Instant.

The Committee are humbly of Opinion that His Excellency be desired forthwith to issue his Proclamation to encourage the enlisting the Forces proposed to be raised on the Part of this Province for the Western Expedition: And as nothing has a more probable Tendency to promote the Design of said Expedition than the engaging a great Number of the Indians of the six Nations therein, the Committee are further of Opinion that His Excellency be desired to write to Colo William Johnson by Express, and to urge him to use his utmost Endeavours to secure and prepare for that Service as many of those Indians as may be and to assure him that the necessary Charges that may arise therein shall be born and paid by this Province in the same Proportion to the rest of the Governments concerned, as the other Charges arising from this Expedition shall be determined to be paid.

And in as much as it does not yet appear in what Manner the Goverament of New York will make Provision for the Service of this

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Expedition, the Committee are of Opinion that it will be most Convenient to defer the procureing of Battoes untill His Excellencys Arrival in that Pro-vince, and in Case it shall not appear that sufficient Provision has been made by the Govern-ment there for this Part of the Service, that His Excellency be desired in such Case there to enage in behalf of this Province for its Proportion of said Battoes as he shall judge reasonable & necessary and to cause the same to be provided accordingly.

The Committee apprehending it to be of Im-portance that the Matters foregoing should be forth-with acted upon thought it proper to make this Partial Report, and to desire Leave to sit again & to consider and report on the other Matters contained in His Excellencys Speech.

All which is humbly submitted,

By Order of the Committee. J. Osborne

March 26. 1755.

[p.480] / In the House of Representatives. March 26. 1755. Read & Accepted and thereupon ordered that a Copy of this Report be transmitted to the Governments of Connecticut, New Hampshire & Rhode Island.

Sent up for Concurrence / T. Hubbard Spkr

In Council March 26th 1755. Read & Concurrd / Thos Clarke Dpty Secry

Consented to / W Shirley.

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[more]

Extract of the Report of the Committee of both Houses in the Province of New Hampshire dated March 15th 1755. which was accepted by the General Assembly there.

That Agreeable to the said Vote they have had his Excellency's speech and the sundry other Papers therein mentiond & referr'd to before them, & were fully convinc'd that the Fort built & garrisond by the French at or near Crown point on the South-erly End of Lake Champlain was within the un-doubted Limits of our Sovereign Lord King George's Dominions, and therefore that the erecting said Fort was at first an Encroachment on his Majesty's Territories; That it had ever been the Place from whence the St Francis and other Indians in league with the French King's Subjects had made their Incursions on his Majesty's Subjects of New England as well as New York, killing & captivating at every Opportunity, not only in the time of declar'd War between the two Nations, the English and French, but in the time of the most profound Peace, Many In-stances of which were too recent to be particularly mention'd here. They were therefore humbly of Opin-ion, that the erecting a strong Fortress in that part of his Majesty's Dominions and as near to the said

French Fort as the Situation of the Land and other concurring Circumstances may admit was of the last Importance to the very Being of all his Majesty's Colonies

[P 506]

Endorsed Extract of the Report of / the Com^tee of both Houses / of the province of New / Hampshire dated / March 18^th 1755 / in Gov^r Shirley's Letter of / March 26^th 1755.

COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION,

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Providence March 9. 1755. [part]

Sir.

The Scheme your Excellency has formid for his Majesty's Service & communicated to me with a Copy of your Speech & the General Court's proceedings thereon ve. by the Post, discoverid in you such a strong Attachment to the publick Good, with a Capacity & Zeal for the Service of his Majesty & his Dominions, as induc'd me to call our General Assembly together immediately; But bad Weather prevented their meeting till Thursday: When an Engagement to Secrecy being taken by all whom it concernid, your Papers were laid before them, and I have the Pleasure to assure you, Sir, that all of both Houses very readily consented & enterid into your Excellency's Scheme.

'Twas agreed & a Vote passid to raise four Companies of one hundred Men each Officers included & a Colonel at the Head of them.

Nothing is wanted to carry these Resolves into Execution, but Advice from your Excellency that the other Governments have fallin into the Measures proposid, which I presume they will without Hesitation as the Scheme is, at least seems pregnant of the most substantial Means of repelling, & to make the French repent of the Encroachments they

have already made upon his Majesty's Dominions &
are daily endeavouring to extend.

I am (with great Respect)

Sir. Your Excellency's most Obedient
& very humble Servant

W. Greene

His Excellency Governor Shirley.

[1750]
Endorsed Copy of Gov. Greene's / Letter to Gov. Shirley /
dated March 9. 1750 / Rhode Island / in Gov. Shirley's Letter
of / March 26. 1750.

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[copy]

Virginia Williamsburg Mar 17th 1755

Right Honble

Inclosed I send You Copy of my last by the Gibralter, since that General Braddock arrived here and last Week all the Transports except one, the Forces on board are in good Health and high Spirits, not any of them Sick, the Transports with them are ordered immediately for Alexandria, for which Place I set out with the General To-morrow: he inclines to have an Interview with Governor Shirley at Annapolis in Maryland, an Express was accordingly sent to him the first of this Month; I presume at this Meeting a Plan of Operations will be agreed on, as I shall attend the General there, on my return I shall write You fully.

I have been closely employ'd in providing Provisions for the Forces, and I think there is sufficient for six or eight Months for the whole; the only Difficulty is providing Carriages &c. for the ordnance Stores, but I hope by Diligence we shall surmount that, though the Passing the Allegany Mountains will be troublesom, but those, better accquainted with these Things than I am seem to make light of it.

If our neighbouring Colonies had been equally obedient to His Majesty's Commands as this Dominion,

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how soon could we have drove the French from the Ohio. but they continue obstinate and blind to their own Preservation: Money is wanted. I therefore have ordered the Assembly of this Colony to meet the First Day of May to endeavour to get a farther Aid. but I much fear the Supineness of the other Colonies will be a great Hindrance to me; Our People declaring their backwardness to grant any further Supplies as the other Colonies will look on them as Dupes to the Whole. by assisting the Expedition with Chearfulness. when others remain indolent and passive. though in equal Danger with us; but I shall endeavour all in my Power to palliate this Objection.

I enclose you a Copy of a Letter sent me by the Governor of New York; containing a Speech from the Governor of Quebec to the Six Nations; by which you will please observe what false Insinu-ations he uses to delude these poor ignorant People to their Interest: I wish the New York Government had been more assiduous in retaining these People; if properly informed. a little Money applied for the [Disp] Payment of some Lands. settled by the Subjects of New York, which they claim. would have fixed them to our Interest; and now I do not dispair of their declaring themselves (when they see our regular Troops) in our Favour.

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And I have strong Hopes, when General Brad-
-dock gets other Side of the Allegany, that he
will be able to do what is expected from him.
The Forces I raised in this Dominion, the General
has formed as follows. Two Companies of Carpen-
-ters, Six Companies of Rangers and a Company of
Light Horse, which Disposition I think very prudent,
& will be of great Use.

I shall with assiduity do every Thing in
my Power for His Majesty's Service and His Dominions
on this Continent.

I beg Leave to assure You that I remain
with Deference and Respect

Right Hon^ble

Your most obedient and
faithful humble Servant

Robt Dinwiddie autograph

Last Night the other Transport arrived at Hampton—

S^r Thomas Robinson

[page]

Endorsed Virginia March 17th 1755/ Lt Gov^r Dinwiddie/
& May 29th

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[4 pages]

New York 19th March 1755.

Sir,

To comply with his Majestys just Expectations signifyd to me by your Letter of the 26th of October last, I called the Assembly together the 18th of February, although they had been adjourned before the receit of your Letter to the 2d Tuesday in March: The result of a short meeting is contained in three Acts then passed, Copies of which I have transmitted to the Board of Trade: The first is for regulating the Militia, and is made more effectual than any heretofore, which will render them more serviceable, and contribute to the security of the Province. The second is an Act for raising a Supply of £45,000, of which £20,000 is to be imployed in fortifying the City of New York, £6000, the City of Albany, £3000, the Town of Schenectady, a place on the Mohawks River 16 miles Northwestward from Albany, £1000 for securing the Town of Kinderhook, a Settlement on the East side of Hudson's River below Albany which is considered as a principal Frontier on that side the River: £600 for building a Fort on Hudsons River above Albany: £5,000 to replace the same Sum given [page] to Virginia £5,000 for refreshing such of his Majesty's Troops as may land in this Province, and for providing convenient

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Transportation for them towards the Place of their Destination and for other extraordinary Services which may be judged necessary for the use and Security of the Colony: the Residue of the Money to remain in the Treasury to be hereafter disposed of. So that I shall be able in some measure to comply with those Articles mention'd in your Letter, which are of a local and peculiar Nature and arising within this Govern-ment. As to the other Articles which are of a more general concern, and which ought to be supplyed by a general Fund. I was not able to prevail on the Assembly to contribute towards it: their Reasons were, that they were burthened with Taxes; that they had already contributed £5000 to Virginia: That the Neighbouring Governments had contributed nothing, and that the Burthen being unequal would become too heavy for them to bear, but at the same time they appeared willing, if the other Provinces came into it, to bear a Proportion according to their Abili-ties. The Backwardness of some of the Colonies to fall into General Measures for the common utility convinces the necessity of inforcing a general Union
[p.497]
by / Act of Parliament. The third Act, is to restrain the existing Provisions to Cape Breton, and the other French Settlements in North America: This is a very necessary Measure, as the French cannot without

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extreme difficulty and frequent disappointments carry on their Expeditions on the Continent without Supplies of Provisions from the British Colonies: I know not whether all the Provinces will follow this Example, if they do not, it is certainly a Point that may deserve the interposition of Parliament, For the Colonies can receive nothing in return for their Provisions but the Produce of France, or the French Islands

April 3d: 1755.

Since I wrote the above, and missed the opportunity of sending it, I again called the Assembly together on the 25th of March, and acquainted them with the Arrival of General Braddock and the Troops in Virginia, and recommended to them the enabling me to quarter the Troops &c as being Services of a local and peculiar Nature, and further to raise as large a Sum as could be afforded, as their Contribution to a general Fund. I also laid before them a Plan of Mr Shirleys for attacking Crown Point. The result of their short Meeting (from Tuesday to Saturday) is contained in their Votes: 1st Instead of [page] providing for quarters, they desire I would repair the old Barracks and order new ones to be built for accommodating his Majestys Troops; and I could not prevail on them to furnish Bedding and other Necessaries for the Barracks. 2dly They declare their

readiness to contribute to a General Fund for the Service of North America when the other Colonies shall come into it: they having already given five thousand pounds towards the Assistance of Virginia. 3dly They agree to Mr Shirley's Plan and will bear their part, provided the General approves of its being carried into Execution; All which appears from the Papers inclosed, which being short I take the Liberty of troubling you with

I have expected Mr Shirley these 8 days to pass through this Town to Annapolis to meet General Braddock I have received a Letter from the latter to come to that Meeting, and shall set out, so as to be there at the same time with Mr Shirley. I am

Sir / Your most obedient &
most humble Servant
James De Lancey

The Rt Hon. Sir Thomas Robinson

Endorsed New York March 19th / & April 3d 1755 / Ld Gov. De Lancey / Rd June 10th

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[p.499]

Assembly Chamber, City of New York the 28th March 1755.

The House Resolved it self into a Committee of the whole House upon that part of his Honour the Lieutenant Governors Message, relating to the Quartering of such of his Majestys Troops as should be posted in this Colony, and establishing a Gen. eral Fund for the common services of North America. After some time spent therein, Mr Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr Nicoll Reported the Resolutions of the Committee, which he read in his place and after. wards delivered in at the Table, where the same were again read, and agreed to by the House and are as follow Viz.

Resolved That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Barracks in Fort George in the City of New York be repaired, and such others erect. ed as may be necessary for accomodateng such of his Majestys Troops as may be posted in this Colony.

Resolved That it is the opinion of this Committee that whenever his Majestys other Colonies on the Continent shall establish a Fund for the Common services of North America, this Colony do continue to contribute its just proportion towards such

[p.500]

General Fund, having already begun a contribution of Five thousand pounds to the Government of Virginia

for such purposes.

Resolved That an humble Address be present-ed to his Honour the Lieutenant Governor, That he will be pleased to give directions for repairing the Barracks in Fort George in the City of New York, and for erecting such others as may be necessary for accomodating such of his Majesty's Troops as may be posted in this Colony, and that the expence attending the same may be paid out of the Sum of Five Thousand pounds lodged in the Treasury for such services; and to assure his Honour that whenever his Majesty's other Colonies on the Continent shall establish a common Fund for the General service of North America, This House will provide ways and means for continuing a contribution of the just proportion of this Colony towards such General Fund

Ordered that Colonel Beckman and Mr Thomas wait on his Honour with the aforesaid Address

By order of the General Assembly

Abm Lott jun. Clk

a true Copy Exam. By

G W Banyar D Secry

[1502] Endorsed 28 March 1755| Resolutions of the Assembly| of New York| in Lt. Govr De Lancey's Letter| of March 19th & April 3. | 1755

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[p. 503]

Assembly Chamber, City of New York, the 27th March 1755

Mr Nicoll from the Committee appointed to meet and Confer with a Committee of the Council on the Subject matter of his Honour the Lieutenant Governors Message of the twenty sixth instant, and the papers from his Excellency Governor Shirley referred to in the said Message, and also to confer thereupon with Thomas Pownal Esqr Commissioner on the part of the Government of the Massachusets Bay; Reported that the joint Committee had met and conferred to-gether, and with the said Thomas Pownal Esqr upon the Subject of the matters referred to them, and that the joint Committee had come to the following Resolutions Viz.

First That the Scheme proposed by Governor Shirley for the defence of the British Colonies in North America is well concerted.

Secondly That this Colony join therein if the General appointed by his Majesty to Command the Forces in North America, approves (sic) of the said Scheme.

[p. 504]

Thirdly That this Colony raise and Sub-sist eight hundred Men. if the Colony of the Mas-sachusets Bay, raise and Subsist Fourteen hundred Men, according to the proportion settled by the Com-missioners, as reasonable, at the Congress at Albany

in June last.

Fourthly That if a sufficient number of Forces be sent up Kennebeck River to make a Diversion there, by the Colony of the Massachusets Bay, the joint Committee are of Opinion it may be an equivalent to two hundred Men, in which that Colony is by the Committee thought deficient in only proposing twelve hundred Men to be raised at their expence in the intended enterprize.

Which Report he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the Table, where the same was again read.

[p 505] Resolved Nemine Contradicente That the House do agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions

Ordered That Mr Nicoll and Mr Thomas wait on his Honour the Lieutenant Governor with the said Report and Resolution

By order of the General Assembly

Abm Nottingham Clk

A true Copy Exam[d] By Gw Banyar D Secry

[p 506] Endorsed 27 March 1755/ Resolutions of the Assembly/ of New York/ N:1/ in Lt Gov: De Lancey's Letter of/ March 19th & April 8d 1755

Gentlemen [p.109]

I have the pleasure to acquaint you with the arrival of General Braddock and the two Regiments ordered by his Majesty to Virginia. This makes it necessary for me again to recommend to you, the enabling me to quarter the Troops, impress Carriages, and provide all Necessaries for such Forces as shall arrive or be raised within this Government; these being Services of a Local and Peculiar nature: and further that you would raise as large a sum as can be afforded, as your Contribution to a common Fund for all Articles which are of a more general Concern, to be employed provisionally for the general Service of North America, until such time as a Plan of General union of his Majesty's Northern Colonies for their common defence, can be perfected: According to his Majesty's Pleasure Signified to me by Letter of the 26th. of October last, from the Right Honble Sir Thomas Robinson, already before you.

I send you hereunth Copies of some Papers [p.108]
I received from his Excellency Governor Shirley, which are of such Importance as require your early and most Serious Attention, the rather as the Measures proposed therein tend to unite our common Strength for our common Defence, and I Hope will lead us into a general union for the general Welfare. The

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French Incroachments are Chiefly owing to the want of this. If the British Colonies act in Concert they will soon be able with his Majesty's assistance, to check and remove them. You will not I am perswaded be so regardless of your safety, as to neglect the means and measures for your own Preservation, but in this, and all other Instances shew your Readiness to join with the other Colonies in all reasonable Methods to protect and secure your selves, and the Common Interest, and avoid the disadvantageous imputation of Backwardness on your part to engage in a Plan calculated for the Good of the Whole

[p.509] I am under a difficulty to get the Garrison of Oswego supplyed with Provisions the Contractor being unwilling, by reason of the Disappointments in his Pay, to disburse any further Sums in that Service. You will therefore think of making provision that the Publick may not suffer through any delay of payment and Particularly that this Garrison of so great Importance be not in danger of being lost.

City of New York
26th. March 1755.

James De Lancey

A true Copy Exam^{d}. By / G W. Banyar D Secry

[f.510] Endorsed 26 March 1755 / Copy / Message from the Lieut^{t}. / Governor of New York to the / Council and Assembly / in Lr. / Gov^{r}. De Lancey's Letter / of March 19th & April 3^{d}. 1755.

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Virginia Williamsburg Apl 30th 1755 [Answ]

Right Hon^ble

My last to You was the 17th March. to which I beg to be referred. I have been one Month with General Braddock to assist with my Advice for the conducting the Expedition, and returned hither only last Week.

The General, Bom_odore Keppel, the Governors of New England, New York, Pensylvania, Maryland, & myself met in Council at Alexandria the 14th of this Month to concert a Plan of Operations for the Summers Campaign against the French; when it was unanimously agreed, That the General with upwards of 3000 Men, was to attack the French on the River Ohio; That the two Regiments of Governor Shirley's & Sr Wm Pepperill's were to march and attack the Fort at Niagara; That Col: Johnston with five thousand Men, raised in the different Colonies to the Northward, was to attack Crown Point; These Dispositions we all thought the most eligible, & I am of Opinion may succeed to drive the French from His Majesty's Lands.

If the General succeeds on the Ohio, he proposed going up that River to Lake Erie to take their Forts on River De Beuf & on that Lake, & probably may join Governor Shirley's and Sr William

Pepperill's Regiments at Niagara. It was further or-
dered, that the two Independent Companies at
New York and two Companies from Sr. Wm. Pepperill
should immediately march to Oswego Fort, throw up
Breast Works & put it in a defencable Condition;
this Fort is in the way to Niagara, that if thought
proper the above two Companies may join Sr Wm
Pepperills and I have sanguine Hopes on this Plan
they will meet with Success; but the Expence of
the Train of Artillery is monstrous, to get Horses
Waggons &c. to transport them over the Allegany
Mountains.

I believe the General is at Willis Creek by
this Time, and I dare say will use all possible
Diligence in puting the Scheme concerted in Force.
Money is much wanted and if I had not received
the Cash & Credit from Home, I could not have
provided the Provisions I have done for the Army.

Our Assembly meets To morrow, when I shall
earnestly endeavour to have a Vote of Supply.
but I greatly fear Success, as our neighbouring Pro-
prietary Governments of Pensylvania and Maryland
have been so monstrously backward, quarreling with
their Governors, & not granting the Aid the present
emergent Occasion Demands. However I shall do all
[p. 5b]
in my Power to raise in our People a proper / Spirit,

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& if possible get a Supply; but really, without a British Act of Parliament to oblidge all the Colonies to a mutual Supply. I dread the Governors will hardly be able to perswade them.

I but just now heard of thes Ships sailing so cannot enlarge but to assure You I remain with great Deference & Respect—

Right Honble

Your most obed: hble Servant

Robt Dinwiddie

P: S. Colo Johnston is sent to the Six Nations with a Present, & to endeavour to get them to take up the Hatchet & declare against the French. he has some Hopes of succeding, which will be of great Service—

Sir Thomas Robinson

Endorsed Virginia April 30th 1754 Lt. Govr Dinwiddie [D. 5th] Rd June 18th

[0563]

Extract of a Letter from the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania dated May 15 (41)

I am opening a Road from Shippensburgh westward to the Forts of the Yohiogany and to Fort Loumberland, which I hope to have finished by the time they will be wanted, as there are now a hundred men at work, and I have sent[†] Mr. Peters with orders to employ as many men as he thinks necessary. the Committee of Assembly will be at the charge of opening these Roads

[*] Secretary of the Province

There are one hundred and fifty Wagons and about six hundred Horses gone from this Province to the Army.

May 20th

New Jersey having resolved to raise 500 Men for the Lorown point Expedition and to put them under Coll. Peter Schugler, I thought they would be more usefully imployed at Niagara, as Sir Wm. Peppells Regiment was not near full, and therefore went with Governor Shirley to Elizabeth Town to get the destination of those Troops so far enlarged as to admit of their being imployed in that Service, which was immediatily done by a Short Bill and they

are to go upon that Service, which I think of mere advantage as both Schuyler is at their head, with whom the Indians, through whose bountry the Troops must march, are acquainted, and in whom they have a confidence.

May 25th

I have been imployed for some days in settling a supply of Forage for the Army at the Generals request, and I think it is done in such a manner that he will be hereafter in no want as to that Article, which I am sorry to say the Assembly declined furnishing at the expence of the Province

Mr Peters is still in the back bountys to see my orders executed for clearing the Roads and to give such further directions as he shall judge for his Majestys Service

Mr Croghan by my order has joyned the General with the Ohio Indians that were under his care. [p. 568]

I am endeavouring to get two hundred Labourers more to work on the Road, as it does not go on so fast as I expected, but I am still in hopes it will be ready by the time it is wanted.

Extract of a Letter from Mr Peters the 8th of May.

I have the pleasure to inform you that Mr Franklin has sent to the Camp One

the Postmaster Genl residing in Philadelphia

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hundred and fifty Wagons filled with good pro-
visions & provender, and that he has likewise pro-
cured the number of single Horses ordered by the
General that the Roads are cutting, and will
be ready for the communication into the heart
of this Province, that a good and convenient post
is established between the Army and this City,
and that the march towards Fort Duquesne will
begin in a Fortnights time at furthest. Sr John
St Clair with two hundred men is gone to take
possession of a pass of importance on the Hills

Endorsed Extract of a Letter from the Lieut: Gov. [Docb.]
of Pensylvania to Mr Penn. May 30th 1755 in Mr Penn's
to Sr Thomas Robinson of June 4th 1755.

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Virginia Williamsburg June 6th 1755

Right Honble

Annexed is a Copy of my last the 30th of April to which please be referred.

Agreeable & in obedience to His Majesty's Com-
-mands I have transmitted my Warrant to the Pay Master General for 2000 £ payable by Mr John Han-
-bury, from the Revenue of two Shillings p Hogshead on Tobacco received in this Dominion, that Revenue is the only one I have recourse to for payment of any Emergencies of Government, I therefore have left the small Sum of 764.. 15.6 in the Receiver Generals Hands to be ready on any urgent Occasion which I hope will be approved of with You.

General Braddock has been long delayd for want of Waggons for the train of Artillery & Forage for his Horses which are upwards of fifteen hundred; in this new Country those Supplies are very dif-
-ficult to be had; however the 20th of last Month the first Division of His Army began their March over the Allegany Mountains, & I doubt not the whole Army is marched by this time & I wish them Success.

From the best Intelligence we have the French have not above 500 Men besides Indians at the Fort on the Ohio; An Indian from the French
[4.605]
says, that they are determined / on Sight of General

Braddocks Army they will abandon the Fort and probably dismantle it, but that they determine to come among our Inhabitants on the Frontiers to plunder; this I think is only a French Brava. do; however I think it proper to order the Lieu. tenants of the Bounties to keep the Militia in readi. ness, & if they should attempt any such Thing, I cannot see how they can make their Retreat, as the Army will be on the other Side of them.

The General writes me, that if he succeeds in taking the Fort, that it must be supported by the contiguous Colonies of Virginia, Maryland, & Pen. sylvania, which I think very just, & desires Guns, Provisions &c. be provided accordingly.

Our Assembly met the 1st Ult° but are adjourned for a short Time, they proposed grant. ing 6000. but hope when they meet again they will make it 10,000 when I lay before them the Expences that General Braddock expects from them, & I shall be very earnest in perswading them to act with Vigour & Resolution at this critical Juncture.

The Proprietary Governments to the northward of us being so backward in their Supplies, has put me to great Straits to perswade our People to a just way of thinking; however I hope they will act consistent with their Danger,

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& in Gratitude to His Majesty for his great care of us & the great Expence of our Mother Country

I have laid Horses at proper Stages in order to have quick Intelligence which I shall be careful in communicating to you as Opportunities offer.— If I had not got the Money & Credit from Home to supply Provisions & other Necessaries, the Expedition could not have succeeded in any tolerable Manner.

I have sent to General Braddock a Present for the Indians amounting to £599. 2. 3 in suitable Goods; the Chiefs of the Southern Indians are gone to Charles Town in South Carolina, but am in hopes a good Number of them will meet our Forces on the Ohio.

With great Deference & due Respects I remain—

Right Hon^ble^

Your most faithful and
obedient Hble Servant
Robt Dinwiddie

Inclosd You have Copy of General Braddock's Speech to some Indians—

Sir Thos Robinson

[3 sig]

Endorsed Virginia June 6th 1755 | Lt Gov^r^ Dinwiddie |
Rd July 17th

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[1755]

Fort Loumberland May 10th 1755

By Hes Excellency General Braddock

Brothers With this String of Wampum I wipe open and clean your Eyes that you may see the Sun plainly, & to hear what we have to say to you, as we have always spoken with our Hearts & Minds freely to you I hope you will open your Hearts & Minds freely to us.

Gave a String of Wampum

You may remember last Winter the Speech which was delivered to you at this Place for our Brothers the Six Nations, the Shawnees, Delawars & Twightwees, & all their allies. Whereas the treacherous & perfidious French had, with their Lies & Flatteries prevail'd with some of our Brothers & Your friend Indians to help & assist them to drive Coll. Washington, with the few Troops he had with him then from the Ohio.

You was after that told here that our Great King of all the English would send us some help, which you now see with Your own Eyes, & that You may be further convinced of the certainty of His Intentions, has sent me, one of his great War Captains to conduct his Army against this treacherous Invader of Your Peace & our quiet & all their Adherents.

As we are sufficiently strong to see the French

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upon the Ohio, it is not Time to speak but to fight, so that I shall not say much more upon this Subject, only that I am very sorry to see so few of our Brothers here, & to hear that a great many that call themselves our Friend Indians are gone to War against our Brothers the Southern Indians.

This we may plainly see is a Contrivance of the French on purpose to keep our Brothers the Southern Indians from coming to help us when they would be so very useful to us as at this Time & sorry to find they are so easily led by the French when they had Notice last Fall to be ready to help us in the Spring -

Gave a String of Wampum

Now Brothers You have known the Eng. lish many Years ago, & they have always shewn how much they desired to live in Friendship with the Six Nations Delawars, Twightwees & their Allies. Yet we find contrary to the Faith of some of these, there are many of those call themselves our Brothers are now amongst the French ready to help them - To all whom I now speake in the Name of the Great King of England & all his faithful Subjects & People. I send this String of black Wampum to acquaint them, that our Arms & Hearts are open to receive them & to forget and forgive

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them all former Injuries, & to bury the same under this great Mountain; And as we have no more Time now to allow them to be any longer deceived by the French we send them this Wampum to let them know, whoever we find amongst the French & fighting against our Friends, we must look upon them as fighting against us.

You here see the few Soldiers that are with us which is Nothing in Comparison of the Great Armies which we have now ready in other Places to the Northward under other great War Captains, with Colonel Johnston, Shirley, Pepperill & others, ready to fall upon the French & their Adherents & to convince our Brothers the Six Nations, & our Allies that we are in great Earnest & hope to make them very soon heartily Sick & Hungry.

Gave a String of Wampum

Now Brothers my Advice is that you would accept of this Present & divide the same amongst your Families, let your Wives & Children return to Awhwick & there plant Corn & what other Provisions they can—Pensylvania has orders to supply them with what Necessaries they may want. Let your young Men & Warriors come along with us their Brothers & see how we carry on

War with Pleasure; We shall not desire them to do any more than to scout about & give us Notice on the Approach of the French or their Canada Indians & to prevent them from kill-ing our Horses & Cattle which would be retard-ing us on our March.

Now this is the chiefest Matter that I have to offer at present; As you have all along been consulted & advised with every Thing we have done; I now desire you will speake freely open your Hearts & Minds & give us your best Advice in any Thing you know or can say for the good Success of our Arms & the happy repossession of You & ourselves upon Your hunt-ing Grounds on the Ohio—

Copy—

Answer to this not yet come to hand

[Indo.] Endorsed Genl Braddocks Speech/ to some Indians/ in Lt Govr Dinwiddie's of/ June 6th 1755

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[p.91]

Annapolis 19th of April 1755 —

Right Honourable

I do myself the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of Your three Letters dated the 31st of December & 23d of January & at the same time to inform You that at my Return from the Camp at Will's Creek in February I convened the Assem-bly of this Province & used my utmost Endeavours to obtain the Supplies required by Your Letter of the 26th of October, but with great Concern must I now acquaint you that all my Endeavours Re-commendations & Importunities proved insufficient as I am afraid they will continue to be tho' I am determined by General Braddock's Letters soli-citing Supplies to meet the Assembly of this Province again next Month, & urge them once more to pay due Obedience to His Majestys Expec-tations which have been graciously signified to them by those Letters which I have had the honour to receive from Yourself. The Men that had been raised in this Province before the Gen-eral's Arrival are received into the English Regi-ments excepting a Compy of Sixty, which in Obe-dience to the Generals Desire I continue to support in hopes the Assembly will at there next Meeting be prevailed on to grant Money for that if not

other Purposes.— As I had the pleasure of seeing
Sr. John St. Clair arrive at the Camp not many
Days after I reached Will's Creek in January, &
towards the End of last Month had the Satis-
faction to hear of General Braddocks safe Ar-
rival with the European Troops in Virginia, I had
nothing to do but make such necessary Prepar-
ations for the Reception of those Troops as the
Parcimonious Supply granted by our Assembly
some time before had enabled me to make; &
as soon as I possibly could I did myself the
honour to wait on the General in Virginia to
pay him my Respects & make a Tender of my
Service. As I conceive His Excellency has him-
self advised You in what Condition he found
the Independant Companies as well as the Pro-
[1090] vincial Troops; how Matters were circumstanced
at his Arrival & what Measures he has since
taken, I will not presume to write any thing
on those particulars; wherefore I shall content
myself with acquainting You that Governor Shirley
departed hence for New England this Morning af-
ter having had an Interview with General Brad-
dock at Alexandria which place the General pro-
posed also to leave this Day & proceed to Frederick-
ton on this Side Potowmack, where I shall do

myself the Honour to wait on him next Tuesday,
& with his permission attend him to Wills Creek
for which place the two Regiments will receive
his Orders to march the End of this Month.

With the greatest Respect

I am

Right Honourable Sir

Your most humble

& most obedient Servant

Horr. Sharpe

Rt Hon.ble Robinson Secretary of State

Endorsed Annapolis. April 19th 1755 / Gov. Sharpe / [illegible] [f. 94]

July 22d

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[1754]

Colony of Rhode Island April 17th 1755

Sir,

His Majesty's fatherly Care and princely Provision for the Safety and Well-Being of this and all his other Colonies We gratefully acknowledge, and humbly beg that through your Mediation his Majesty may be informed.

That in Obedience to his Commands signified to Us by the Earl of Holderness in his Letter of the 25th of August 1753 this Colony appointed Commissioners to join with those appointed by the other Colonies, to hold an Interview with the Six Nations of Indians at Albany on the 14th of June last, who repairing thither, did in Conjunction with the others, renew and confirm the Alliance and Friendship with the said Six Nations of Indians, and in Proportion to our Ability did contribute towards procuring such Presents as added to his Majesty's Bounty then delivered to them, seemed to give them intire satisfaction. The Commissioners on the Part of this Colony were also instructed, and did when at Albany give Assurances to those of the other Colonies; that We were willing and should at all Times be ready to afford all the Assistance within our Power for the defence of any of the British Colonies.—

That in Obedience to his Commands signi-
-fyed to us by your Excellency in your Letter of
the 5th of July 1754 the General Assembly of this Col-
-ony granted a Tax on the People of Ten thousand
Pounds to be wholly appropriated to the repairing
and inlarging the Fort, standing on a small
Island in Newport Harbour, to which Grant of the
General Assembly, the Town of Newport the Metro-
-polis of this Colony have of their free Gift gen
-erously added five thousand Pounds to be ap-
-propriated in the Same Manner, and great Num-
-bers of People are now daily at Work in mak-
-ing the said Repairs and Enlargements.—

That in Obedience to his Commands signi-
[p.330] -fyed by your Excellency in your Letter of the
26th of October/Our General Assembly will take Care
to have in Readiness a Sufficient Quantity of fresh
Provisions for the Use of any Forces that may ar-
-rive here; but as yet none have arrived. They
have also ordered Four hundred men Officers
included, to be raised thinking that to be more
than this Colony's Proportion, if compared with
the Numbers which Several of the Neighbour-
-ing Governments have voted to raise on this
Occasion; and will be ready to exert themselves
to the Utmost of their Ability, in Conjunction

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with the other Colonies to raise a common Fund for their mutual Benefit, and will at all Times readily obey and faithfully fulfill, as far as is in their Power, all such Commands as they may from Time to Time receive from his Majesty's Commander in Chief when he shall arrive in America. And as they have already, so will they continue carefully to correspond with Governor Shirley, Sr. William Pepperil and the Governors of all the Other Colonies as the Exigency of Affairs may require.

And as this Colony are fully sensible of their absolute dependency on the Crown of Great Britain for their Safety and Support; They will therefore at all Times, with the utmost Chearfulness Obey, and as far as their Power can reach, perform all his Majesty's Commands Signified to them, fully trusting that while they continue to do so, His Majesty's gracious Favour and princely Protection will not be withdrawn from them.

His Majesty's Care for the Protection of every Part of his dominions, is so conspicuous, that it emboldens his Colony of Rhode Island to beg your Excellency to become Suitor to His Majesty on their Behalf, that He would be

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pleased to give to them a Sufficient Number of suitable Cannon, which added to those they already have, may furnish their Fort with it's Enlargements now making; an exact Plan of the whole Fortification, with the Number and Size of the Guns already in it, will be here. with Sent to Your Excellency; and the Number
[p.681]
and Size/Of those that may be wanting to ren. der it compleat; We hope His Majesty will cause to be determined in the proper Offices

I am with the greatest deference in Be. half of the Colony,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

and most humble Servant.

Wm Greene

[p.682] Endorsed Rhode Island April 17th/1755/ Gov Greene/ Rd July 10th

[p.615]

Instructions to Colonel William Shirley

You are to take upon you the Command of your own and Sir William Pepperrell's Regiment, and to proceed with all convenient Expedition to attempt the reduction of the French forts at the Straits of Niagara.

You are to leave in the fort at Oswego the Garrison already orderd thither consisting of two Companies of Sir William Pepperrell's Regiment, & the two Independent Companies of New York, with such further Augmentation as you shall judge necessary for its Defence and if you shall find it abso-lutely necessary for his Majesty's Service to lessen that Garrison by calling some of these Troops to your Assistance, you are to do it.

You are with all imaginable Dispatch to put the fort at Oswego into such a state of Defence as to enable the Garrison to make a pro-per Resistance in case of being Attack'd.

You are to make Application to Govr De Lancey for the money wanted for such purpose out of those Appropriated by the Goverant of New York for the Defence of their Frontiers, but in case you should find any delays, wch may be prejudicial to yr intended Expedition you are

then to draw for such Sums upon his Majty Treasury wch shall be informd of the necessity of honouring Your Draughts.

[p 6 v 6]

/You shall find out some proper person to Act as Engineer to whom you shall make an allowance of ten shillings per day Sterling, and charge to your Contingent Accot such Expences as shall arise from the paymest of Gunners Matrosses & all others employd abt the Train, taking care at the same time to lessen the Expence that as many of them as may be are inlisted Soldiers.

In Case you should succeed in Your Attack upon the forts at the Straits of Niagara, you are immediately to put it in good Repair, and to make such Additions as to render it defensible agt any Attempts.

You are to detach employ or leave such Garrisons of the Troops under Your Command as shall be judgd by you most proper for his Majesty's Service.

You are to take all opportunities & use your utmost endeavours to inform me from time (time) of Your situation & all remarkable occurrences that in case the French should have thrown such Reinforcemt into their forts at Niagara as to frustrate Your Attempts that I may by these Intercourses

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settle a Junction with you as soon as the Affairs of the Ohio are determind.

You are impowerd to draw upon his Majesty's Treasury for all such monies as shall be wanting to carry on the Service having re. gard at the same time to all proper Oeconomy.

And if any thing to the forwarding the [p.619] Charge you are/entrusted with should not be mentiond in these Instructions You are to use your best Judgment therein.

E Braddock

Camp at Alexandria

April 16. 1755.

[p.618]

Endorsed Copy of Instructions to/Colonel Shirley/

In Governor Shirley's of/ June 20. 1755.

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[Long]

Sir

I have receiv'd your letter dated April y^e 13^th wherein you layd before me the great murmers and discontents of the Soldiers of your Regiment and Sir William Pepperells they being put under Stoppages of 4^d per day for their subsistence at the same time that the Troops to the Northward & Southward of them receive a daily Gratuity without Stoppages, and that you apprehend it will not only impede but absolutely prevent the carrying on his Majestys Service unless this Grievance is remov'd. The provisions furnish'd to the Troops under my Command has been and is now supplyd by the Colony of Virginia, and is issu'd to my men not as their Right but an Encouragement. I should be desirous you would prevail on your Assembly to victual the Men of Yours & Sir William Pepperell's Regiment But if that cannot be obtaind, and as I have nothing so much at heart as the success of his Majestys Arms w^ch you seem to be convinc'd must be frustrated by the present discouragem^t your men are under occasion'd by their unequal Situation w^th the rest of his Majestys Troops in North America, I direct you to furnish them upon the cheapest Terms w^th such provisions as can be procurd & to put [a bro] them in every respect upon the same footing with

the other of his Majesty's Regiments till his plea-
-sure shall be known

I am

Sir

Your most Humble & Obed! Serv!

E Braddock

April 16th 1755

To his Excellency Gov! Shirley.

[p.602] Endorsed Copy of General Braddock's | letter to Gov!
Shirley | dated April 16. 1755. | In Governor Shirley's | of
June 20. 1755

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At a Council held at the Camp at Alexandria in [1023] Virginia April 14. 1755.

Present.

His Excellency Edward Braddock Esqr General & Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America.
The Honble Augustus Keppell Esqr Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessells in North America.
The Honble William Shirley Esqr
The Honble Robert Dinwiddie Esqr
The Honble James De Lancey Esqr
The Honble Horatio Sharpe Esqr
The Honble Robert Hunter Morris Esqr

The Generals Commission being read & the Articles of his Instructions from His Majesty relating to a common Fund to be established in the Colonies for carrying on the Services under the Generals Directions; and also the Article relating to the Measures to be taken for engaging the Indians in His Majestys Interest: His Excellency the General made the following Proposals.

1st That a Fund should be established conformable to His Instructions above mentioned, and to Sir Thomas Robinson's Letter to the several Governours dated October 2do. 1754.

2d It being of the utmost Importance that the Five Nations of Indians and their Allies should

be gain'd & Secured to the British Interest, that a proper Person should be sent with full Powers from him to treat with them, and that Colo. Johnson appearing to His Excellency the fittest Person for that Purpose, should be employ'd in it And in order to promote the Success of the Treaty, the General proposed that Presents should be made to the said Indians, in which he desired the Opinion of the Council as to the Value to which the said Presents should be made, and the Manner of their being supplied

[p 624] 3d His Excellency acquainted the Council, that he proposed to attack the French Forts at Crown Point & Niagara and desired their Opinion whether it was adviseable that the Reduction of Crown Point should be attempted with the Forces agreed to be furnished by the several Colonies concerned in it, amounting in the whole to 4400 Men, and whether it was their Opinion that Colo. Johnson was a proper Person to command in Chief in the said Service.

4th His Excellency considering the Fort at Oswego as a Post of the greatest Importance for facilitating the proposed Attack of Niagara, and securing the Retreat of the Troops to be employed in that Service; and having been informed

of its present defenceless Condition, and of the weakness of its Garrison, acquainted the Council, that he should order it to be reinforced by the two Independent Companies of New York, & two Com-panies of Sir William Pepperill's Regiment; and desir-ed to have their Opinion whether it would not be proper to build one or more Vessells upon the Lake Ontario for asserting his Majesty's Right to that Lake, as well as for a Security to the Forces to be employed in the Attack of Niagara, and of what Burthen or Force the said Vessells should be.

The Members of the Council having taken into Consideration the several Matters in the Order proposed by the General, the Governours present ac-quainted His Excellency, that they had severally made Application to their respective Assemblies for the Establishment of the Common Fund proposed, but had not been able to prevail upon them to agree to it; and gave it as their Unanimous Opinion, that such a Fund can never be established in the Colonies without the Aid of Parliament, they likewise declar-ed, that having found it impracticable to obtain in their respective Governments, their Proportions ex-pected by his Majesty towards defraying the Ex-pence of his Service in North America; That they were unanimously of Opinion that it should be/proposed [p.605]

to His Majesty's Ministers to find out some Method of Compelling them to do it, and of assessing the several Governments in proportion to their respective Abilities, their Shares of the whole Money already furnish'd; and which it shall be thought proper for them further to furnish towards the general Expence of his Service: They also assured the General that they would still continue to use their utmost Endeavours to raise all possible Supplies, but were unanimously of Opinion, that the King's Service in the Colonies, and the carrying on of the present Expedition must be at a Stand, unless the General shall think proper to make Use of his Credit upon the Government at home to defray the Expence of all the Operations under his Direction.

The Members of the Council likewise agreed that it was highly necessary to send some Person with full Powers from the General to treat with the Five Nations of Indians, and to secure them and their Allies to the British Interest, and that Colonel Johnson was the fittest Man to be employed in that Business: And for that Purpose that the Sum of Eight hundred Pounds Sterling should be paid into his Hands, to be laid out by him in such Commodities as he should judge most proper, for the Northern & Western Indians, Five hundred Pounds of which should be employed

for the Five Nations and their Allies, and three hundred Pounds for the Western Indians, to be given to them at Oswego. And as to the Manner of Supplying the Presents, the several Governours agreed, that if the General for the Sake of Dispatch thinks proper to advance the Money, the Colonies ought to replace it according to the Proportions settled in the Plan of Union by the Commissioners at Albany last Year, together with all Contingent Charges attending it: and that it was their Opinion that the several Governments would readily consent to do it within the Space of three Months.

The Council expressd their Approbation of the Attack proposed by the General upon Crown Point & Niagara, as being undoubted Encroachments made by the French upon his Majesty's [0426] Dominions in America, and gave it as their unanimous Opinion that Coll° Johnson was the properest Person to have the Command of the Expedition against Crown Point. They also agreed to the Necessity of Strengthning the Fort, and reinforcing the Garrison at Oswego; and advised the Building of two Vessells of Sixty Tons upon Lake Ontario, with all possible Dispatch according to a Draft to be sent by Commodore Keppell, who desired that an Accompt might be laid before him of the Cost of them, and undertook

to defray it: And it was agreed that the Direction of the Affair should be committed to Governour Shirley.

It was likewise unanimously agreed, that in case of the Reduction of Fort Du Quesne, whatever Garrison the General should think proper to leave there should be maintained, and the Expence of additional Works which he should think necessary to make there, should be defrayed by the Governments of Virginia Maryland & Pensylvania. And that if the General should think it necessary to build a Fort upon Lake Erie, and to order one or more Vessells to be built for the Defence of that Lake, that the Expence attending both these Measures, should likewise be defrayed by those three Governments.

Examin'd

W. Shirley Secry

Endorsed Minutes of Councill at/ Alexandria/ In Governor Shirleys/ of June 20. 1755.

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[p 507]*

Copy of His Excellency Governour Shirley's Message to the Council and House of Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, dated June 13. 1755.

Gentlemen of the Council & House of Representatives,

The Secretary will herewith lay before you an Extract of a circular Letter from the Right Hon^ble Sir Thomas Robinson one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, dated the 26^th of last October, to me and his Majesty's other Governours upon this Continent, wherein you will observe what his Majesty expects his said Governments shall contribute towards the charge of Subsisting the British Forces, and of raising and subsisting the American Regular Forces then lately ordered to be raised, with some other incidental Charges: And as these Forces have been raised or transported for the immediate & common Safety & Benefit of his Majesty's said Colonies, I perswade myself you will judge his Majesty's Expectations to be reasonable.

As to the Article of Provisions, I would inform you that in pursuance of his Majesty's Pleasure the Government of Virginia have found the two British Regiments with Provisions, ever since their Arrival in that Colony, & still continues so to do; That the Government of Pensilvania voted the Sum of

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£5000 of their Currency, the Government of New York £5000 of their Currency, and the Colony of Connecticut £3000 Lawful Money, to be laid out in Provisions for his Majesty's Forces, and the last mentioned Colonies hath besides found the Levies, which have been raised within their Government for his Majesty's American Regiments, with Provisions during their Continuance there; That in January last I layed the Extract of Sir Thomas Robinsons aforesaid Letter before the late Assembly, & recommended it to them to com-
[2 lines]
-ply with his Majesty's Expectations therein signified; and as they rose without coming to any Determination thereupon; and it appeared to me that making a Stoppage out of the Subsistence of the Soldiers of the Regiments under mine and Sir William Pepperell's Command, on Account of their Provisions would be esteemed a Grievance by them, and be attended with great Prejudice to his Majesty's Service, I represented this Matter when I was at Alexandria to Major General Braddock, and desired his Directions in it, whereupon he directed me to recommend it to you to find these two Regiments with Provisions; and I hope that you will follow the Example of his Majesty's Government of Virginia which hath not hesitated to comply with his Majesty's Pleasure in this Matter, with Regard to

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the two British Regiments.

As to the Article of Levy Money I would in-
-form you that in pursuance of his Majesty's Plea-
-sure upon that Point, the two British Regiments
under the Command of Colo Dunbar, & Sir Peter
Halket were each of them augmented from 500 to
700 Men by Drafts out of the Provincial Forces of
the Governments of Virginia and Maryland for
the raising of which those Governments had been
at the Charge of Levy Money; That the Govern-
-ment of Rhode-Island in Consequence of Sir
Thomas Robinsons aforesaid Letter, in a very short
time past a Vote for raising one Company of
100 Men, as their Proportion of this Charge, which
they informed me of, and that they waited only
for his Majesty's Commissions actually to raise
the same, and the Governour of Connecticut in
a Letter to me soon after the Receipt of Sir Thomas
Robinsons Letter, speaking of his Majesty's afore-
-said Expectations in general, acquainted me that
he supposed all the Governments would comply
therewith: You observe, Gentlemen that the Expence
of levy Money is recommended to be defrayed at
the joint Expence of all the Colonies / out of a [4629]
common Fund, to be raised in Proportion to their
respective Abilities, and I cant but hope that

you will not stand out against the Reasonableness of what is recommended to you upon this Article, and the Example & Sentiments of other Governments herein, but contribute the just Quota of this Gov-ernment towards it.

As to that Paragraph of Sir Thomas Robinson's Letter which is relative to the several Governments fur-nishing the Officers, which might have occasion to travel by Land with Necessaries &c as far as I have heard I have reason to think that other Governments have in general conformed to it: and I would in par-ticular observe that the Governments of New Jersies & Pensilvania in passing through which, I had oc-casion for Horses provided them for me at their Expence; No Expence of this Sort hath happend to this Government, except two Articles amounting to £15. Sterling, which I acquainted the late Assembly with by my Message dated the 28th. of March, but set out for Virginia before they had passid upon it: and as it was not stirred in my Absence dur-ing the Continuance of that Assembly, I must de-sire you would now take that Matter under your Consideration, and reimburse me the said Sum of Fifteen Pounds

[1630

Endorsed Copy of Govern.r Shirley's Message to the Council & Represen-tatives of the Mass.t Bay June 13. 1755 / In General Shirley's of / June 20. 1755

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At a Great and General Court or Assembly [p.43] for His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay begun and held at Boston upon Wednesday the 28th Day of May A.D 1755. being convened by His Majesty's Writts.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration his Excellency's Message of the 13th Instant have attended the Service, and have prepared the following answer which is humbly submitted,

John Cohandler Jr Order.

May it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency by your Message of Yesterday, accompanyd with an Extract of a Letter from the Rt Honourable Sir Thomas Robinson one of His Majesty's Principal Secretarys of State, was pleased to recommend to Us to contribute to the charge of subsisting the British Forces, and of raising and subsisting the American Regular Forces employ'd for the immediate and common Safety and Benefit of His Majesty's Colonies upon this Continent. —

We must beg Leave to offer to your Excellency our Reasons why we cannot comply with your Excellency's Proposal, and we humbly presume they are so well grounded as that

your Excellency will be well satisfied therewith, and that his most gracious Majesty will not look upon our Non compliance to proceed from any Want of Loyalty to His Majesty or Zeal for his Service. Our Loyalty and Zeal, we humbly trust, have been evidenced, not by meer verbal Expressions but by a great Expence of the Lives and Fortunes of the Inhabitants of this Province frequently employed for the promoting His Majesty's Service. Your Excellency must well remember the many [p.633] Proposals you have made to us, and the cheerful Compliance they have met with, for the Preservation and Defence of His Majesty's Interest upon this Continent, and it is in Consequence of your Excellency's Recommendation to us, and our Zeal for His Majesty's Service that we have now a greater Burden lying upon us than any one of His Majesty's Colonies besides have ever sustained. Our Inclinations lead us to proceed still further at so critical a Juncture, but our Abilities will not admit of it: The Hostility lately committed by the Savages on our Borders has obligd Us to engage in a War with their several Tribes - a War which has always impoverish'd this People, and to which no other Colony on this Continent is alike exposed - a War that at this Time must prove peculiarly

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distressing, when above one Eighth part of our Inhabitants are already employed in the several Expeditions - and besides the Loss of their Labour to the Province, this Scarcity of Men will oblige us to offer larger Encouragement for Volunteers for this Service than has ever yet been given, that should we engage in any other expensive Measures we could never defray the Charge, and must fail in the Prosecution.

It might appear invidious if we were to compare our Services with those of any other particular Colony, nor have we any Disposition to raise our own Reputation at the Expence of our Neighbours, but yet We hope we shall be justify'd in being ambitious of a distinguished Share of His Majesty's gracious Esteem, and in desiring your Excellency always to represent to His Majesty our Behaviour and Circumstances in a full Light.

Your Excellency is sensible of the Readiness with which we engaged in the Expedition to Kennebeck River, of the great Charge we have been at in building and maintaining the Forts there, in order to prevent the Advances of the French with which His Majesty's Territories were then threatned; that this Expedition to Kennebeck was scarce over before we engaged [p.638] in another to Brown Point, and

this at a Time when the Enemy were making In-
roads upon our own Frontiers. But we engaged in
those Expeditions with an humble Presumption and
Trust that His Majesty would be graciously pleased
to relieve us from the heavy Charges that attended
them, and we humbly conceive that if both those
Undertakings had been known to His Majesty at
the Time of the Date of the Circular Letter which
your Excellency refers to, this Province at least would
have been exempted from any Demand or Proposal
of this Nature.

We beg Leave further to observe to your Ex-
cellency that since the Peace of Aix la chapelle we
have been at more Expence for preventing and re-
-moving the French Encroachments, we don't say than
any other Colony, but than all His Majesty's Colonies
besides We are sensible we have all one common
Interest, and that the French Scheme is so extensive
that the Success of it would finally affect us all
alike, and therefore we have never looked upon our
Remoteness from the Places where some of the Princi-
-pal of these Encroachments have been made to ex-
-cuse us from a full Share of the Burden of re-
-moving them, but we humbly apprehend that those
Colonies which are not so remote as this are at least
obliged to a Share in proportion to their Abilities.

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We are now under Engagements for the Pay and Subsistence of Twenty four Hundred Men in several Services occasion'd by the Situation and Designs of the French. About three Thousand more of our Men are employ'd in the Expedition to Nova Scotia, and in your Excellency, & Sir William Pepperels Regiments. We are certain that this Province does not amount to one Eighth part of His Majesty's Interest upon the Continent, whether we Consider either the Number or the Estate of the Inhabitants If all the other Colonies had raisd a Force in the same Pro-portion with the Twenty four Hundred Men which are in the Pay of the Province, their Troops would have greatly [p.230] exceeded the whole Force now employ'd His Majesty's British Troops, and the American Regu-lar Forces included; and were it not for the French Troops continually transporting from Europe, we humbly Conceive, that such Force raised within the Colonies might have been sufficient to have de-fended the several Governments, and prevented any Advances of the Canadians upon His Majesty's Ter-ritories, while unsupported by France.

But Whilst the Court of France is aiming at the Dominion of this Continent and employing Strength and Treasure for this Purpose, We humbly hope that equal Strength and Treasure will be

graciously afforded by His Majesty to frustrate all such unjust Designs, and that too great Dependance will not be placid upon the Ability of His Majesty's Subjects in America for their own Defence.

We shall only further observe to your Excellency, that our entering upon any new Expence at this Time, will most certainly prevent us from carrying into Execution the Measures we are already engagid in, and for which we have as yet been able to make but too imperfect Provision. We hope therefore that your Excellency will not desire from us any further Advance of Money at this Time, and that you will represent to His Majesty the Disposition of the Inhabitants of this Province in such a Light as that we may be rankid amongst the most loyal and dutiful of His Majesty's Subjects, and obtain his most gracious Favour in our present distressing Circumstances.

In Council June 11th. 1755 Read and Ordered that this Report be accepted and that Andrew Oliver & Isaac Royall Esqr. with such as the Hoble House shall join be a Committee to present the same to His Excellency the Governour.

Sent down for Concurrence.

Thos Clarke Dpty Secry

In

In the House of Representatives June 18th. 1755.
Read and Concurred And Mr. John Hunl. Mr
William Bowdoin, and Thomas Foster Esqr are
joined in the affair

T. Hubbard Spkr.

Endorsed In Governor Shirleys / of June 20 1755.

[p.005]

Boston, New England June 25th 1755.

Sir,

I have the pleasure to inclose You a Copy of the Letter, wch I received Yesterday from Lt Colonel Moncketon Commander in Chief of the forces employd in the Expedition for removing the French from their Incroachments in Nova Scotia, giving me Advice of the Surrender of the French Forts upon the Isthmus on the 16th instant. wth Copies of the Articles of Capitulation proposd on the part of the French, as also of those granted them by Colonel Monckton.

I hope those Troops will soon be Masters of the French forts upon the River St John's in the Bay of Fundy; and that like Success will Attend the other parts of the General plan of Operations now carrying on for the recovery of all his Majestys just Rights in North America.

I beg leave to recommend Lt Loring who will have the Honour to deliver my dispatches to You, and whom I employd in the Expedition as Capt Breton; he is a Lieutenant upon half pay in the Kings Navy, and was made a Lieu-tenant for his good Services in that [p.006] Expedition, and has a thorough knowledge of the Sea Coasts in these parts.

I am, Sir, with the Highest Respect
Your most Humble and
most obedient Servant
W Shirley.

To the Hon^ble Sir Thomas Robinson, Knight of
the Bath, and one of his Maj^ty^s principal
Secretaries of State.

[p 608]
Endorsed Governor Shirley/ Boston June 25th 1755/ Rec^d
July 27./ by Lieut Loring/ NB the Capitulations,/ inclosed
in this Letter are/ the same as Those in Lt Gov^r/ Lawrence's
of July 9th

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[2 Copy]

Copy of Col.o Monckton's Letter to Governour Shirley

Fort Cumberland June 14. 1755

Sir

I have the Honour of informing your Excellency of our being possessed of the Fort of Beau Sejour; and of Inclosing you a Copy of their Propositions for a Capitulation, as likewise of the Terms I granted them. And to acquaint your Excellency that Lieut Col.o Winslow marchd yesterday with 300 Men to take Possession of the Fort of Gaspereau by the Bay Vert Who have likewise Capitulated on the same Terms so that the Isthmus is now Clear

The Peasants Sir are all to bring in their Arms to Morrow and I shall wait Col.o Lawrences Orders for their fate

In consequence of Col.o Lawrences Instructions as soon as I can settle Matters here, I shall sail for St. Johns from whence I hope to send your Excellency the like News

I must now beg your Excellencys excuse for referring you to Majr. Brown (the Bearer of this) for further Particulars, as I have scarce a Moment to my self, what with the Peasants and sending off the Prisoners

I.

I am Sir with much Respect

Your Excellencys

Much Obliged & Obedient Servt

Robt Monckton

Majr Brown will wait your Excellencys Orders to return

His Excellency Govr Shirley

[blurred]

Endorsed Copy of Lodi Monckton's letter | to Governour Shirley dated | June 19. 1755

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[p.640]

Termes de Capitulation qui Sont accordés au Commandant et Garnison de Beausejour.

Messieurs le Commandant, Officiers Etat Major et autres employes pour le Roi, et la Garnison de Beausejour sortiront avec Armes et Bagage, Tambour battant.

La Garnison seront envoyer directemeat par Mer a Louisbourg aux Depens de le Roi de la Grand Bretagne.

La Garnison aura des Provisions de Bouche suffisante pour leur Passage a Louisbourg.

Pour les Accadiens, comme ils ont eté forcé de prendre les Armes sur Peine de la Vie ils seront pardonné pour le Part Quils vient de prendre.

Dernierement la Garnison ne porteront point les Armes en L'Amerique pendant les Termes de Six Mois.

[p.640] |Les Termes ci devant sont accordé sur Condition que la Garnison sera rendue aux Troupes de Roi de la grande Bretagne a Sept Heurs cet apres Midi.

[p.641]

Endorsed Terms of Capitulation/granted to the Commandant/ of Beau Sejour/ in Gov^r Shirley's Letter of/ June 25^th 1755

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Propositions pour la Capitulation de [illegible]
Beau Sejour

Messieurs le Commandant, Officiers, Etat Major, employés pour le Roy et la Garnison de Beau séjour, sortiront avec Armes et Bagages, Tambour battant, Mêche allumé.

Le Commandant aura à la tête de sa Garnison six pièces de Canon du plus gross Calibre, et un Mortier, avec cinquante coups de Poudre a chaque Pièce

Il sera fourni les Voitures necessaires pour les Transports à la Baye verte, d'ou la Garnison s'embarquera dans ses Batimens pour aller ou bon lui semblera.

La Garnison emportera deux cent quarts de farine et cent quarts de Lard.

Il sera accordé le tems necessaire à la Garnison pour passer de ce port à la Baye verte, et de la Baye verte à sa Destination

Les Accadiens ne seront point in-
-quietés pour avoir pris les Armes/ p. [illegible] d'autant mieux qu'ils y ont eté forcés sur peine de la Vie, il ne leur sera fait aucun Domage.

Il sera permis aux Accadiens de con-
-tinüer de vivre dans leur Religion, ils pourront avoir des Prêtres, il ne leur sera

fait aucune Violence

Il sera permis à ceux des Accadiens qui le voudront de se retirer sur les terres du Roy de France avec leurs Effets mobiliers. ils auront un An pour preadre ce party a compter du jour de la presente Capitulation; et les François pourront fournir aux Accadiens les Batimens necesaire pour se retirer pendant le Cours de l'Année

Pour les Articles de cette Capitulation qui pourront être expliquees d'une Maniere obscure, seront interpretés a l'Avantage des François, et executés de bonne foi.

[p.150]
Endorsed Terms of Capitulation/offer'd by the Com-/-mandant/of Beau Sejour/in Gov^r Shirley's Letter of/ June 25^th 1755.

[p.651]

Sir,

I have only one Minutes time before this Ves. sell sails to transmit the incloſd Intelligence as a probable Piece of News.

I have the Honour to be wth the greatest Respect

Sir.

Your most Humble & most

Obedient Servant

W Shirley.

Boston New England

June 26. 1755.

To the Rt. Honble
Sr. Thomas Robinson.

Endorsed Governor Shirley | Boston June 26. 1755. | Recd [p.654] July 27. | by Lieut Loring

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[4606]

The Master of an English Schooner an Intelli-
gent man and of good Credit belonging to Marble-
head brings an Acct That on the 11th instant he
spoke with the English Squadron, and that the
Officers of one of the Admirals Ship (viz) inform'd him
That they had fall'n in with five sail of French
Men of War off the Grand Bank, and taken three
of them all seventy Gun Ships, and that the other
two made their Escape. And the said master says
he saw the English Fleet stretching after the French
Squadron. he further relates that the English fleet
had secur'd a French Banker laden with Fish.

Endorsed In Governor Shirley's of/ June 26. 1755. [4606]